

London News WEEKLY

FREE

TUESDAY DECEMBER 20 2016



The Met's Christmas Tree Project – launched last month by Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe and singer Fleur East – has collected an all-time best of an estimated 15,000 gifts for needy kids in the capital. More than 600 youngsters in care in Westminster are among those to benefit

Santa cops are record breakers

Big-hearted police inspire Londoners to donate an estimated 15,000 gifts for needy kids

BY GEOFF BAKER
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MORE than 600 children in care in Westminster, and thousands more across the capital, will have presents on Christmas Day this year because of big-hearted Santa cops who inspired Londoners in record-breaking numbers to donate gifts for those who might otherwise have none in their stockings.

Londonwide, the Met's Christmas Tree Project has collected

an all-time best of an estimated 15,000 presents for children – plus donations of an unprecedented £25,000 in cash.

In Westminster alone, officers collected more than 1,000 presents for children in care – helping to make Met chief Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe's last Christmas Tree appeal the best one ever.

Last year the appeal, first launched by Sir Bernard in 2012, drew donations from the public of 11,360 presents for children

plus £9,000 in cash. But that has been dwarfed this year as Londoners' kindness overflowed and people left presents in their thousands at collection points beside Christmas trees outside police stations in the city's 32 boroughs, and gave more than two-and-a-half times as much money raised for Christmas 2015.

In Westminster, the appeal has been supported by Westminster City Council, local businesses and residents. And so many presents were donated at Westmin-

ster's appeal tree at Charing Cross station that officers had to hire a seven-and-a-half-tonne lorry to collect them all.

Some 600 presents have been delivered to Westminster children's services to distribute and, because of the number donated, gifts will also be going to child victims of crime and young people at local hostels.

Londoners have always been generous in their support for the

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(Established 1857)

Kensington & Chelsea News

(Established 1857 & 1869)

Fulham Chronicle

(Established 1888)

Hammersmith Chronicle

(Established 2015)

Shepherd's Bush Chronicle

(Established 2015)

London Weekly News

(Established 2014)

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Cinderella at Palladium reviewed - page 21

Six of the best - how *London Weekly News* reported 2016

JACK DIXON looks back at some of the best stories which we brought you in 2016

August 9 - *Fulham Chronicle*, 'Dad: I'm proud of Suzy's legacy - but no answers'

ON the 30th anniversary of his daughter's mysterious disappearance, grieving father Paul Lamplugh spoke exclusively to *London Weekly News* about his family's tragic loss.

Mr Lamplugh revealed he is now resigned to never finding out what happened to Suzy, who was working as an estate agent in Fulham when she went missing in 1986.

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust continues to campaign on personal safety, particularly among young women.

October 10 - *Fulham Chronicle*, 'George, you're a legend - official!'

FOOTBALL legend George Cohen added one final honour to his illustrious career this year as he was named an honorary freeman of Hammersmith and Fulham.

The World Cup winner and Craven Cottage hero received a standing ovation from councillors during a town-hall meeting - just three days before his 77th birthday.

It capped a remarkable year for the cancer and dementia research campaigner after his statue was unveiled outside the home of the Whites.

June 7 - *Kensington & Chelsea News*, 'Youth sport's unity message for Europe'

YOUR *London Weekly News* has been proud to report on the remarkable rise of Kensington anti-terror football initiative TUFF FC in 2016.

In June, we followed the team to Molenbeek - the Belgian town where IS plotters sheltered in the aftermath of the Paris attacks.

The project was hailed a unifying force for the whole of Europe as the young players completed the visit with a trip to the EU Parliament in Brussels.

September 27 - *Westminster & City News*, 'London home to first trillionaires'

IN an indication of the wealth at the heart of the capital, *London Weekly News* reported on two businessmen tipped to become the world's first trillionaires.

Taavet Hinrikus, founder of TransferWise, and Pablo Graiver, who owns TrialReach and Antidote in the West End, are expected to surpass the wealth of the late Apple icon Steve Jobs.

Finance gurus predict a tide of titan entrepreneurs emerging from London in 2017, with prospects of the first Bramazon or Broogon on the cards.

September 20 - *Hammersmith Chronicle*, 'Protestors demand pledge on hospital'

YOUR *London Weekly News* has been reporting from the front line of a major health battle in 2016 as campaigners went to war with NHS chiefs over controversial plans to shake up local services.

Clinical commissioners have ruled out closing Charing Cross Hospital until at least 2021 but protesters in Hammersmith and Fulham are fighting to secure its long-term future.

In September, campaigners mobbed health bosses outside St Paul's Church, demanding a commitment to protect the hospital from cuts.



November 1 - A 'force for good' in London - our 100th edition

IT was a proud occasion for the team at *London Weekly News* in November as we celebrated our 100th edition.

Our weekly newspaper was hailed a force for good in London as members of the community stepped up to pay tribute.

A special souvenir edition included a four-page wraparound featuring 100 of our most memorable front-page stories. Here's to 100 more.

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Reminder on yellow lines' enforcement

RESIDENTS and visitors to Kensington and Chelsea are being reminded that yellow lines will be enforced throughout the Christmas and New Year period, except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

On the bank holidays - Monday December 26, Tuesday December 27 and Monday January 2 - people who park on single yellow lines are liable to receive a parking ticket during the hours of enforcement. However, on these days, and on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, pay-and-display bays are free and restrictions on resident parking bays will be lifted.

Although general enforcement is not carried out on Christmas Day, action may be taken against vehicles that are parked dangerously or causing an obstruction.

Dame Babs tells blind veterans they needn't feel isolated

DAME Barbara Windsor has made a personal appeal to Kensington's blind veterans to get in touch with her support group so that they do not feel isolated.

She made her appeal after sharing a Christmas lunch with 78-year-old Garry Daintry, one of almost 40 blind veterans living in the royal borough.

The Christmas lunch marked the publication of Blind Veterans UK's first piece of research into veterans' social isolation.

"The survey conducted by the charity found that 61 per cent of older veterans said that they had become increasingly isolated following their diagnosis of sight loss," said a spokesman for the charity.

"The findings overwhelmingly indicate the need for specialist support for this group, who, in the charity's experience, take great pride in their independence and may be less likely to ask for help".

After receiving the charity's support, 86 per cent of respondents said that it had helped them to feel less isolated. The

charity estimates that there are at least 36 blind veterans who would be eligible to access its specialist support in Kensington, most of whom are currently not aware of it.

Dame Barbara, a long-time supporter of Blind Veterans UK, said she gave her wholehearted support to the appeal.

"I want to make sure that Blind Veterans UK are reaching as many veterans as possible. No-one who has served our country should have to battle sight loss alone, and no-one should feel isolated or lonely as a consequence of sight loss.

"If you, or anyone you know, previously served in the Armed Forces or did national service and now suffers with severe sight loss, please encourage them to get in touch."

Mr Daintry, who attended the lunch with his wife May, joined the Irish Guards in January 1957. He became a helicopter pilot and served in many locations around the world including Cyprus, Germany, Aden, Singapore, Borneo, Malaysia

and Hong Kong until his discharge in September 1971. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1983 as a pilot until 1988.

He said: "May and I very much enjoyed the very fine Christmas lunch put on by Blind Veterans UK. It was good to meet so many old friends and to meet new ones. Carry on Christmasing, as Barbara Windsor might say."

The Christmas lunch is one of many free social events and support services that Blind Veterans UK provides to ex-service personnel battling severe sight loss, and their families. The charity estimates that there are currently 59,000 blind veterans who would be eligible to access its specialist support, most of whom are not currently aware of it.

If you, or someone you know, served in the Armed Forces or did national service and is now battling severe sight loss, find out how Blind Veterans UK could help by calling 0800 389 7979 or visiting noonealone.org.uk.



May Seecharan, Dame Barbara Windsor and Garry Daintry



Members of the Pepper Pot Club in Ladbrooke Grove enjoyed a slap-up Christmas lunch with the deputy mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Cllr Will Pascall, and musical entertainment from Folage.

The day centre for older members of the African-Caribbean community in the royal borough is open from Mondays to Fridays throughout the year for all of those aged over 55.

The club provides a range of services including a home meals service for older, frail people, information and advice on social and health issues, welfare benefits, recreational and leisure activities including crafts, keep fit, dominos, bingo and carpet bowls, outings and holidays abroad, an outreach service for people who live alone and are isolated and a free transport service for disabled pensioners living in North Kensington.



Councillor blasts housing association over OAPs' eviction

BY GEOFF BAKER
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KENSINGTON councillor Pat Mason has slammed a local housing association for leaving an elderly ex-serviceman and his sick wife homeless at Christmas.

Winston Benn, 75, and his 69-year-old wife Denise have been evicted from their flat in Ladbrooke Grove after falling into rent arrears at the home where they lived for 20 years.

Now council-taxpayers of Kensington and Chelsea are set to foot the bill of the authority finding them emergency accommodation.

Mr Benn said he owes the Catalyst housing association around £3,000 in rent but he is willing and able to clear the debt within five months.

But Catalyst have refused his offer and is pressing ahead with the eviction of the former building surveyor who worked for the company when it was previously known as the Kensington Housing Trust.

Mr Benn, who served in the RAF in Aden, Cyprus and Indonesia, is now looking for temporary accommodation for him and his wife, who suffers from depression.

He explained that the problem began in the summer when he had to go abroad to deal with deaths in his family.

His wife could not cope with an administrative change in the rules affecting their housing benefit at that time and consequently the benefit stopped, causing the arrears.

Upon Mr Benn's return to the home at Bevington Road, the housing benefit was reinstated but the eviction was in process.

"I can and will pay off all the arrears but Catalyst don't want to know," said Mr Benn.

"There seems no reason or rationale to this.

"I have housing benefit and two pensions which I can use to clear it all up. I just can't understand why Catalyst won't accept it, it's crazy.

"I worked for 51 years and never stopped. I was in the RAF, then I became a building surveyor and worked for the

Kensington Housing Trust and Kensington Council. I am not the sort of person to abuse the system."

Cllr Mason said: "The Benns have an appeal hearing on January 3 and have offered to clear all the arrears and reinstate the standing orders – but Catalyst are refusing to agree.

"Evicting pensioners from their flat and the area they've lived in for decades should be the very last option in these days of critical housing shortage that means deportation to ghastly temporary accommodation anywhere in England or the street.

"Just because the Benns got into arrears once in 20 years, whatever the reason, should not be an excuse for Catalyst Housing to dump them on the council's doorstep, washing their hands like Pontius Pilate.

"Catalyst say they believe in communities, that they care about their tenants and want to help them stay in their homes.

"Well, here's their chance to prove it. Or are they going to eat their Christmas dinners knowing they've made two pensioners homeless?"

Maria McCann, Catalyst's director of customer services, said: "We do everything we can to avoid evicting people from their homes.

"It is a last resort when people do not keep to the terms of their tenancy.

"As in this case, the team work with tenants and refer them to agencies who offer support with benefits and debt counselling but we can only do this with the tenants' agreement.

"The date of the eviction is set by the courts and took place on November 10, so the tenancy is formally over. However, the tenants have made a re-entry application. It is not due to be considered in court until next year."

Mr and Mrs Benn are currently staying with friends but now face applying to the council for temporary accommodation.

Mr Benn said: "I don't know what we're going to do now. But making my wife homeless isn't going to make her depression any better."

Santa cops are record breakers

FROM PAGE 1

Christmas Tree campaign but this year their generosity has been outstanding and the Met is delighted that the kindness will make a big difference so many children on Christmas Day.

Sir Bernard, who is to retire from the Met in February, was inspired to introduce the project to London after seeing the success of a similar scheme in Yorkshire, where he began his police career 30 years ago.

This year's appeal was launched outside Hyde Park police station last month by Sir Bernard and singer and X-Factor star Fleur East.

Sir Bernard said: "Christmas is a time for giving and who more worthy of receiving that generosity than children in care who can find this season difficult?"

But although the chief was hoping that donations this year would match last year's appeal, he and his deputies did not expect it to be such a Christmas cracker.

"I have been delighted and somewhat overwhelmed by the response from the people and businesses of Westminster to this worthwhile cause," said Westminster Borough Commander Peter Ayling.

"I am proud that we have been able to facilitate this collection and as a result of everyone's generous contributions in excess of 600 presents will be delivered to children in care across Westminster.

"I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated to our Christmas Tree project. The Christmas spirit is well and truly alive."

Commander Ayling met Cllr Karen Scarbrough, deputy cabinet member for children and young people, and handed over the gifts for distribution by the council's children's services.

The efforts of the Santa officers to bring smiles to children for Christmas were praised by Cllr Scarbrough.

"The attention to detail that goes into selecting a gift for each child is amazing and I know that Westminster Children's Services appreciate the efforts of the police in delivering such thoughtful gifts each year."

Crimefighters on course for massive cash boost

CRIMEFIGHTERS in Westminster stand set to get a large chunk of the extra £72 million that Sadiq Khan is to spend on making the city safer.

The mayor is to make £18 million a year available over the next four years for crime prevention across London, with the most money going to those of the 32 boroughs in most need.

Although ranking crime by borough is difficult due to various factors including borough size and the number of residents, statistically Westminster should benefit the most from the new Crime Prevention Fund as it tops the crime league.

According to the crime count compiled by the Met for last month, Westminster was far ahead of all other boroughs with 4,423 offences recorded, including 108 residential burglaries, 1,025 acts of violence and 1,388 incidents of antisocial behaviour.

The runner-up was Lambeth, with 2,750 crimes, and third was Newham with 2,746 crimes.

The rest of the top 10 most criminalised boroughs, in order of most crimes, were Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Camden, Croydon, Hackney, Haringey and Islington.

The Mayor's Office said the new investment will help to deliver local services including support for victims of domestic and sexual violence, knife-crime prevention and rehabilitation of offenders within the community.

"The new tranche of the London Crime Prevention Fund will be awarded according to the greatest need across London's boroughs, with a new emphasis on ensuring every Londoner has the access to the services they need to help support them and keep them safe," said the mayor's spokesman.



"This includes targeted support to address violence against women and girls which specifically affects particular communities, focusing on targeted early intervention and awareness-raising.

"Some funds will be redirected into a joint pot, to support services commissioned across boroughs.

"Local authorities will be core partners in the development of this new funding pot, which accounts for 30 per cent of the LCPF budget from 2018-19 onwards. All of the funding will be spent in local areas to further improve services."

Mr Khan said: "Keeping Londoners safe is my first priority, and providing boroughs with the funds they need to tackle and prevent crime is a vital part of this.

"A more joined-up approach, and targeting money where it is most needed, will help us to support those parts of the capital which are struggling, and provide much-needed services to all Londoners, including programmes to tackle serious youth violence and provide support to those who have suffered domestic abuse.

"These are critical issues, and I will do everything in my power to confront them."

Sophie Linden, deputy mayor for policing and crime, said: "Some of the most serious and complex challenges we face in policing our capital cannot be solved by one borough alone.

"This new approach to funding strikes a balance between maintaining crucial local programmes while supporting collaborative work between different areas and organisations.

"By working this way, we can deliver innovative services to Londoners in every corner of the capital and really make a difference to crime levels in our city."

To ensure boroughs have time to prepare for the new funding model, no boroughs will see a drop in funding in the first year and 14 boroughs will see an increase.

After the first year, funding will be awarded based entirely on the new needs-based measurement.

To establish a more flexible, longer-term way of working, funds will now be distributed for two years at a time, enabling boroughs to plan their commissioning over more than one year. Of the two tranches, only the first has been allocated so far.

NEWS FROM NICK



Leader of Kensington and Chelsea council, Nick Paget-Brown, writes for you

AS a regular stroller of the corridors of Kensington Town Hall I can report that the annual festive transformation is well under way. It seems that there's enough tinsel to stretch down to the Albert Bridge, herds of decorative reindeer surround Christmas trees and there are enough boxes of Roses and Quality Street on desks to make me seriously worry about the blood sugar levels of the staff.

Clearly many people are determined to get into the Christmas spirit, me included. But as municipal mince-pie consumption rockets I am all too aware that for some residents the festive season will be far from merry.

There are many reasons why Christmas can be a trying and emotional time for some. Perhaps it will be a first Christmas without a loved family member or maybe as a result of getting older a person's social circle has shrunk or maybe even disappeared.

If you are concerned about someone who may be lonely over Christmas, take a look at the council's People First website - rbkc.gov.uk/peoplefirstxmas.

It has information on keeping in touch and staying well over Christmas, as well as lists of local organisations that offer opportunities for residents to get out and about and meet people. There are suggestions for getting help with transport for those who find it difficult to get around. And it also suggests ways in which someone can stay in touch with others even if they struggle to leave their house.

The webpage can also point people in the direction of specialist organisations that can offer emotional support. Some, like the Samaritans, are nationally well known and there are others, such as Third Age Counselling which specialises in tackling isolation through counselling.

I know that right across the borough, churches and community groups will be doing their bit to reach out to the lonely. This is certainly what's happening at the St Cuthbert's Centre in Earl's Court. All year round it aims to reduce social isolation in the area for older people, those who live alone, those who are at risk or find themselves homeless.

Based in Philbeach Hall on Philbeach Gardens, the centre has an open door, drop-in policy for everyone in the area, offering practical help in an informal, safe setting. It provides inexpensive breakfasts and lunches, laundry, showers, clothes, access to computers and advice and information. Drop-ins are from Monday to Friday from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

The centre really goes the extra mile on Christmas Day, providing a free dinner for homeless people and those alone on the day. If you or anyone you know would be interested in attending, the doors open at 12.30pm and lunch is served at 1pm.

The council's City Living, Local Life initiative has helped fund a number of projects in the run-up to Christmas, designed to provide support for isolated people - a Christmas lunch club at St George's Church on Campden Hill, Christmas dinners in sheltered-housing schemes and a festive event at the Venture Centre in North Kensington for families where a parent or carer is experiencing mental-health problems.

If we all make the effort to try to help someone less fortunate, whether it's by volunteering or donating to those who work with people who need support, we will probably enjoy our Christmas pudding a little bit more. On that note I'm going to see if I can pull rank and raid the Press office Quality Street tin - knowing that lot I bet there are only strawberry ones left. But before I do that I'd like to wish all residents a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk

■ **NO room at the Holiday Inn?** Kensington and Chelsea has run out of space for building any major new hotels, research has revealed. A report from real-estate group Colliers International claims that the royal borough has almost reached full capacity when it comes to hotel development - with only 30 new bedrooms expected to be built in the borough before 2019.

Kensington and Chelsea has 14,702 hotel rooms in 183 hotels, and research shows that only an extra 0.2 per cent hotel rooms will be developed in the borough in the next two years. The City of London has confirmed plans for more than 1,900 extra rooms, and Tower Hamlets wants 1,700 extra rooms.

Councillors demand probe over Cube fears

WESTMINSTER Labour councillors are demanding that Sadiq Khan's aides investigate fears that building the Paddington Cube poses a threat to lives of patients at nearby St Mary's Hospital.

The Labour group has written to the mayor of London's planning team to ask them to use their powers to ensure that work on the £775 million, 14-storey office block does not proceed without guarantees for the safety of patients.

"We are concerned about the closure of London Street, which is the route used by emergency ambulances to approach St Mary's Hospital from the west," said Cllr Adam Hug and Cllr David Boothroyd in the letter to City Hall.

"Since Central Middlesex and Hammersmith hospitals closed their A&E units in 2014, St Mary's has been serving a very large area of West London. It also includes a major trauma centre whose patients often need to have emergency operations. St Mary's does not have a helipad so the only practical access for emergency patients is by road.

"Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, who run St Mary's, have made their extreme concern about the Paddington Cube project absolutely plain.

"They go to the level of saying that it potentially risks the long-term future of the hospital by impacting on its ability to maintain its major trauma-centre status because of the deterioration in access conditions that would arise as a result."

"While the trust is concerned with its status, the safety of individual patients is clearly endangered. The plans proposed a new road along the eastern edge of the site, but which would mean ambulances having to make two additional 90-degree turns to get to St Mary's.

"At a late stage, the applicant undertook to fund a second road further east, using Winsland Street, which might avoid these turns and which St Mary's consider acceptable in principle. However, this road alignment goes through some of St Mary's operational buildings and its delivery is dependent on St Mary's own redevelopment plans.

"Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust said that it is inappropriate to rely on Winsland Street because the applicant is unable to control the delivery of this highway solution. In addition, the chronic congestion problem on Praed Street between London Street and Norfolk Place must be addressed including diversion of TfL buses.

"There is a danger that Westminster City Council may be prepared to issue the permission on the basis of a legal agreement which merely allows the developer to fund the Winsland Street road and does not in fact require that the road is built and opened before London Street is closed.

"Given the GLA's comment that further discussion and feedback was required on blue-light ambulance routes, can we ask that you ensure that this development is not allowed to proceed while significant safety concerns remain? We feel that unless safe and speedy emergency routes to St Mary's Hospital are ensured, the mayor must be ready to direct refusal of this application."

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Kensington Singers and Gary Barlow with David Walliams during the show

Singers star in front of 50 million

THE Kensington Singers are celebrating hitting the big time for Christmas after performing to a worldwide audience of more than 50 million while starring with Gary Barlow – and a naked David Walliams.

The Singers were centre stage in the spotlight when they sang with Gary at the Royal Variety Performance – and they didn't know where to look when David pranked the Take That star with a surprise strip at the end of the song.

"It certainly wasn't like that at the dress rehearsal," said Kensington Singers' founder and leader Hannah Brine.

"We were singing *Dare* from Gary's new musical *The Girls* when David came on and shocked and surprised us all. We were trying to behave professionally, wondering 'Are we allowed to corpse?' but then everyone just fell about."

Dressed in nothing but a pair of Chelsea buns, the cheeky comedian tried best to cover his modesty in his *Calendar Girls*-inspired outfit, while Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall joined the audience in rocking with laughter.

"I thought this was *Calendar Girls*," said David. "I thought you'd all be naked."

Turning to Gary, he said: "I had a little eclair backstage for you. Oh, I feel stupid now."

The royal show was a big boost for the

Kensington Singers, who posed backstage at the Eventim Apollo with Gary, who tweeted the photo to his 4.3 million Twitter followers.

The night before the big gig the choir performed in Notting Hill at their annual winter concert to raise money for the local Glass Door homeless charity.

"It was an absolute privilege for us to be involved in such an iconic evening and I am so proud of my singers for being so professional and really living up to the responsibility of performing at such a high-profile event," said Hannah.

"It was amazing to be part of such a big-scale show, which was watched around the world by 52 million people.

"It's the biggest show that we, and most others there, have ever done and it marked a great start to Christmas.

"This year has been extra special for us, with the opportunity to sing at Sloane Square, the V&A and under the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square as well as our own concerts."

Kensington Singers' next scheduled performance will be their spring concert on March 20, at All Saints Church in Fulham.

"The choir are always looking for male and female voices to join us. Next term starts on January 9," said Hannah.

For more details about joining the Kensington Singers, see kensingtonsingers.co.uk.



Members of Kensington Singers and Victoria Park Singers with Gary Barlow during rehearsals for the Royal Variety Performance

Drones set to conduct council-housing survey

DRONES could soon be used to survey council houses as part of a plan to cut down on the amount of scaffolding that goes up around Hammersmith and Fulham.

Town-hall bosses are considering the high-tech solution after receiving more than 100 complaints about scaffolding last year.

Between September 2015 and August 2016, there were 616 council-housing maintenance projects where scaffold-

ing was used – an increase of more than 25 per cent on the year before.

Now council officers and their private-sector contractors Mitie are reviewing their procedures in a bid to reduce problems caused by nuisance scaffolding.

The use of drones to scout out maintenance issues could save thousands of pounds on expensive construction costs, according to a council report.

Officers are also considering the use of suspended cradles

and cherry-picker lifts as an alternative to scaffolding. The report, which was presented to Hammersmith and Fulham council's housing scrutiny committee last week, said: "We know there have been examples in the past year where scaffolding use could have been managed better.

"As part of our drive to improve, the council is working with Mitie to look at ways to minimise use and improve communication."

CHICAGO is known as the Windy City – and youngsters from Pimlico Academy certainly blew away the audience as they took to the stage for their own take on the classic musical of the same name, writes Paul Lagan.

More than 50 students were involved as cast members, backstage crew or members of the jazz band.

Supporting them was the friendly direction of Ms Simpson, head of drama, along with Ms Cordery. Mr Francis was the musical director.

Samantha Green, principal of the school in Lupus Street, said: "I was blown away.

"We are well known for the quality of our



Kids' show blows away audience

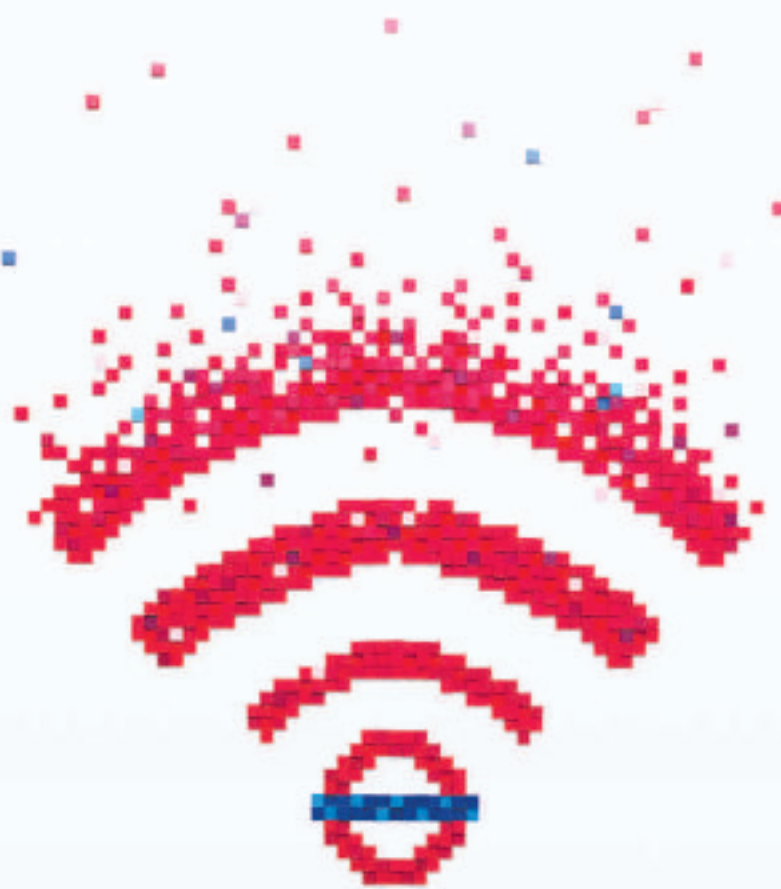
school productions but this reached another level.

"It was quite clear that the hours of rehearsals put in after

school and on Saturdays have paid off. I want to thank all the staff who gave so generously of their time – but particular thanks

to the music department and drama."

Fellow students, family and friends packed the hall for the three-night run.



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Murdered cop's family hope killer dies behind bars

THE heartbroken family of murdered police officer Gordon Semple have said they hope his killer dies in jail.

Stefano Brizzi, 50, was ordered to serve a minimum of 24 years in prison for the gruesome murder of Mr Semple before trying to dissolve his body in acid.

The *Breaking Bad*-inspired crystal meth addict even attempted to cook and eat the flesh of the Mr Semple, 59, in his London flat.

Brizzi claimed that Satan had ordered him to do so.

But the victim's brother Ronnie Semple, a taxi driver, said he hopes that Brizzi never walks free from jail.

Ronnie said: "It's what I expected – I expected life. A minimum 24 years without parole – that helps as well.

"Hopefully he won't see the light of day again.

"We're just glad it's all over. It's time for my son and daughter and grandkids to try to enjoy Christmas."

And Ronnie insisted that he would never be able to consider forgiving Brizzi for what he did to his brother.

Ronnie said: "That's a big no. That's a definite no.

"It's not as though it's an accident, knocking someone down with a car. Then maybe you could forgive.

"We're very happy that the judge took the decision that he did and we're full of praise for the Metropolitan Police.

"Obviously Gordon was doing something he shouldn't have been doing but he was one of theirs (a police officer) and they were determined to get the guy for murder."

Ronnie believes that Brizzi was already on the path towards murdering someone and that his brother was unfortunate to be his victim.

He said: "If it wasn't Gordon, it would have been someone else."

Gordon Semple joined the Met in 1983 and eventually worked at the antisocial behaviour unit at Westminster Council. He ar-

ranged to meet Brizzi through gay dating app Grinder and went to his flat for a sex session on April 1.

The killer claimed that Mr Semple died when a dog leash he had been wearing as part of a sex game slipped.

But a pathologist said that strangulation may have been the cause of death, it would have taken minutes for Mr Semple to die.

Brizzi was later seen on a DIY store's CCTV buying buckets, a perforated metal sheet and cleaning products.

Inspired by a scene in the first series of popular television show *Breaking Bad*, Brizzi dismembered Mr Semple's body.

He burned some of Mr Semple's flesh in the oven while mixing some with acid in his bath.

Mr Semple was reported missing by long-term partner Gary Meeks when he failed to return to their home in Dartford.

Neighbours of Brizzi called police after they complained about the stench coming from his flat.

Officers discovered a gruesome scene of flesh floating in the bath, bags containing bones and pools of human fat in the oven.

Brizzi later admitted killing and trying to dissolve the body of Mr Semple, claiming "Satan told me to".

At a trial last month, the former Morgan Stanley IT developer was found guilty of murder.

At the Old Bailey last week, Judge Nicholas Hilliard sentenced Brizzi to life imprisonment with a minimum of 24 years.

The judge said: "No sentence I can pass can undo what you've done.

"I have no doubt that there came a time when you went beyond what was agreed and you decided to cause him really serious harm.

"Your attempts to conceal what happened and dismembering and destroying his body are terrible features of the case."

The judge commended the police officers who attended the grisly scene.



Celebrate Christmas by lighting up your beard

FORGET decorating the tree or even the outside of your house – this year's Christmas craze for London hipsters is beard lights.

West End trendies are making a Christmas tree of themselves with bright bulbs implanted in their beards.

"First it was glitter beards a couple of years ago, then 2015 saw the arrival of beard baubles and now Christmas 2016 is set to be the year where fairy lights take their place as the hipster facial-hair decorating choice," said a spokesman for East Village E20, a Christmas pop-up shop where scores of hipsters are flocking in order to get the latest festive fashion.

"As beards have become more popular, and ever-lengthening, among the population they have become part of the Christmas-party look and this year is no exception with lights of myriad colours, styles and adornment set to take the hirsute population by storm."

East Village E20, near Stratford, is offering the bearded gentleman the chance to have the look created for them by an expert beard stylist, who is also on hand to offer tips and tricks to recreate the look throughout the festive season at the Pimp My Beard stand.

For more information, visit eastvillagelondon.co.uk.

For sale – Boris' illegal water cannons

LONDON mayor Sadiq Khan has the ideal Christmas present going cheap for foreign leaders facing a problem with riots – three third-hand water cannons complete with music while you squirt.

Because they are illegal to use in Britain, the mayor is flogging predecessor Boris Johnson's redundant cannons to raise cash to tackle gang crime.

Mr Khan revealed that purchasing and kitting out the cannons had cost the taxpayer more than £320,000 – including £970 on fitting CD players.

The cannons were bought second hand by Mr Johnson from the German Federal Police in June 2014, despite the fact that they cannot be used legally in the UK – and they have sat in storage for two years.

But Mr Khan claimed that selling the cannon will save almost £175,000 over the next eight years.

The mayor said: "It beggars belief that such a huge amount of taxpayers' money has been wasted on paying to store these redundant machines.

"We've been left in this position by the previous mayor who rashly purchased them before he even had permission to use them, and now it's my job to claw back as much of London taxpayers' money as I can.

"I have spent a significant amount of time looking into how I can do this, and have been left with no choice but to sell these machines through a process that charges a fee.

"By working with communities and returning to real neighbourhood policing, we can do far more for the safety of our city rather than relying on obsolete and illegal water cannon.

"They do not belong on the streets of London, and by selling them we're able to put money back into helping young people affected by gang crime and keeping Londoners safe."

The cannons cost more than £320,000, including £32,000 on Low Emission Zone compliance, almost £20,000 on repainting and CCTV and £5,000 on repairs due to corrosion.

In July 2015, the then-Home Secretary Theresa May refused permission for the cannons' use on the capital's streets.

She told MPs that evaluation and testing had shown the cannon could cause serious injuries, including spinal fractures, and raised doubts over their usefulness in fast-moving riots.

The machines have a lifespan of 10 years, and figures released by the mayor revealed that around £21,000 per year has been spent maintaining them.

The cannons are now for sale via the Ministry of Defence, and will be sold to a European policing or civil protection organisation – according to conditions set by the German Federal Police.

The money left after selling fees, alongside saved maintenance costs – estimated to be around £175,000 – will be channelled back into communities and youth projects to tackle crime.

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Landlords' new limit

KENSINGTON and Chelsea residents who rent out their homes through Airbnb now face a limit on their lets.

Following pressure from London councils including the royal borough's, Airbnb has announced its systems will automatically limit the listing of whole flats and houses in London to 90 nights a year.

The move means hosts now have to confirm they have the required planning permission to rent their property more frequently.

"It is already against the law for landlords to let out their homes on short-term lets for more than 90 days without planning permission," said a council spokesman.

"Despite this it had become clear that many users of Airbnb were

flouting the 90-night limit and the simplest way to prevent this was for Airbnb to stop it at source, rather than councils undertaking costly retrospective enforcement operations against those who were breaching the rules."

Cllr Tim Coleridge, cabinet member for planning policy, said: "I am very pleased that Airbnb has agreed to put measures in place that will automatically limit the listing of whole flats and houses in Greater London to 90 nights a year."

"It was our belief that allowing rentals of more than 90 days was exacerbating London's housing crisis due to large numbers of properties effectively being removed from the longer-term rental market."

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WED 28TH DEC	10AM-7PM
THU 29TH DEC	10AM-7PM
FRI 30TH DEC	10AM-7PM
NEW YEARS EVE	10AM-5PM
NEW YEARS DAY	11AM-5PM
MON 2ND JAN	10AM-7PM
TUE 3RD JAN	10AM-7PM
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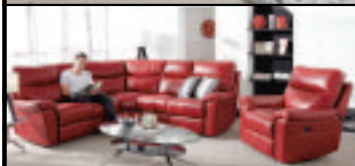
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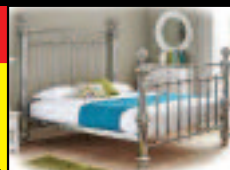
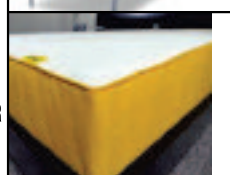
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Under-fives' festive fun

AROUND 40 under-fives came together for some festive fun at Cheyne Nursery in Chelsea.

Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles took time out to drop by and looked on proudly as their little ones took part in the classic nativity play.

Children, families and staff then sang and danced at the party before all were served a feast of Christmas treats.

"If that wasn't enough excitement for one day, a well-known, portly guest in a red suit had a break from his busy schedule to surprise visit the little ones, giving each an early present from his sleigh," said a spokesman for the organisers, Action For Children.

Run on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea by Action For Children, Cheyne Nursery offers a range of activities for children aged three months to five years.



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AC/DC 'a touch too much' for men's concentration levels

MEN who want to win at Monopoly and other board games this Christmas should turn the rock music down or risk getting beaten by women players, according to new research by two Kensington colleges.

Mozart may enhance a man's performance in board games but AC/DC will hinder their chances, say researchers from Imperial College London and the Royal College of Music, who found that classical music may be the best option for men when concentrating on a task. Music was found to have no effect on women's performance but it can distract the blokes.

In the research, the team asked 352 visitors to the Imperial Festival – an annual celebration of the science that takes place at Imperial – to play the game Operation.

This game involves removing various body parts from a pretend patient – Cavity Sam – whose nose flashes and buzzes if your tweezers touch the metal sides of the body.

Researchers gave the volunteers headphones that played one of three tracks – *Andante from Sonata for Two Pianos* by Mozart, *Thunderstruck* by AC/DC or the sound of an operating theatre.

The team then timed them how long it took the participants to remove three body parts, as well as tracking their mistakes.

The results revealed that men who listened to AC/DC were slower and made more mistakes, compared to men who listened to Mozart or the sound of an operating theatre. *Thunderstruck* triggered around 36 mistakes on average, while the sonata and operating-theatre noises caused 28.

Women, however, did not seem to be distracted by the rock music, and none of the three tracks made any difference to performance or speed.

Generally, women took longer to remove the body parts, but made fewer mistakes.

The researchers are unsure why rock music affected men more than women. One

explanation, they said, could be that rock music causes more auditory stress – a state triggered by loud or discordant music – in men.

The scientists also asked people about their musical tastes, and found that Mozart only reduced the number of mistakes people made if they reported high levels of appreciation for the sonata they listened to.

The team, who are from the Centre for Performance Science, a collaboration between Imperial and the Royal College of Music, say the study is part of wider research into how music affects performance.

Dr Daisy Fancourt, lead author of the research from the Centre for Performance Science, said: "Although this study is clearly tongue-in-cheek, and was all performed in our spare time, it is part of our wider research into the effect of music on performance – particularly in a medical setting such as an operating theatre."

She explained that music is reportedly played up to 72 per cent of the time in an operating theatre. However, experts are divided on whether it has a beneficial effect.

Some research, for instance, has found that Jamaican music and hip-hop increases operating speed and surgical-instrument manipulation.

But another study reported that one in four anaesthetists, who are responsible for keeping patients sedated, said music reduced their vigilance.

The team also investigate how music can affect performance in other fields.

"One of our areas of research is how we can boost performance in many different settings – from rowing in the Olympics, to a musical performance or delivering an important speech. This study suggests that for men who are operating or playing a board game, rock music may be a bad idea," said Dr Fancourt, who is also a research fellow at the Department of Surgery and Cancer at Imperial.

Fireworks coverage ‘to be cracker’

COUCH-POTATO fireworks-watchers will be able to feel at the centre of London’s New Year’s Eve display this year – thanks to boffins at the BBC.

For the first time the BBC will be giving viewers at home and around the world a 360-degree panoramic view of the spectacular Big Ben big bang.

“All 110,000 tickets for the event have sold out and but viewers will have the chance to see the internationally renowned display live, in an awe-inspiring spectacle online,” said a spokesman for mayor Sadiq Khan.

“Millions tune in to watch the display live on BBC One every year. This year the viewer experience will be enhanced with a full panorama of the hugely popular pyrotechnic and lighting display via the BBC, in the most extensive live 360-degree coverage the BBC has ever given such an event, offering people at home the opportunity to feel like they are at the display.”

BBC Taster, the BBC’s home for innovation and new ideas, will let viewers get closer to the action, by taking control of the camera angle of the event by tilting and panning on their tablet or mobile device, or using arrow keys on a laptop or PC, giving a full vista of the fireworks and surrounding sites.

Mr Khan said: “I know this year’s show will be the most exciting yet, bringing a fantastic end to the year, and showing the world that London is open. I want everyone to be

BBC viewers will this year enjoy what is billed the best coverage yet of London’s New Year’s Eve fireworks



able to have a great view of the London fireworks. I’m delighted to team up with the BBC to bring this exciting new element to the

event for the first time ever.” For updates about the London New Year’s Eve fireworks, visit london.gov.uk/nye.

£30,000 reward for helping bring cop’s killer to justice

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

POLICE chiefs have offered to pay out £30,000 in reward money for vital evidence that could help catch the killer who stabbed a Westminster police officer to death – 25 years on from the brutal murder.

Met Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe has issued a fresh appeal for information that could solve the mystery behind Detective Constable Jim Morrison’s death.

The 26-year-old officer was knifed in Covent Garden as he tried to arrest a man he suspected of stealing a bag.

But despite extensive inquiries and several arrests, his killer has never been brought to justice.

On the 25th anniversary of DC Morrison’s death, Scotland Yard has raised the reward sum from £20,000 to £30,000.

Met chiefs say they will pay out for any information that leads to the identification, arrest and prosecution of the officer’s killer.

Sir Bernard said the force owe DC Morrison’s family answers about his death.

“Jim Morrison was a talented and dedicated officer who lived and worked in the borough of Westminster,” said Sir Bernard.

“We have heard that Jim was inspirational, that he had an insatiable appetite for his police work and that his dedication to the job was second to none.”

Sir Bernard said he believes there are still people holding vital information about the case.

Appealing directly to witnesses, he said: “I ask people to think back to December 1991. Were you in the Covent Garden/Aldwych area on the night of DC Morrison’s murder (December 13)?

“Do you have information that could help solve this crime?

“Let’s help the family and his former colleagues get the answers that they need.”

On the night of his death DC Morrison was off duty and had visited the Nell Gwynne pub at Bull Inn Court.

He was later spotted struggling with a bag-



Detective Constable Jim Morrison was stabbed to death in Covent Garden in December 1991

snatcher outside the Transport Museum at around 10pm.

The plain-clothes officer then chased the man on foot before he was stabbed to death in Montreal Place, Covent Garden.

The suspect was described as of “Algerian or North African origin”, aged in his late 20s and around 5ft 10in tall.

Officers believe the North African community in London can help solve the case and targeted the group with a video appeal in 2011.

They also prepared posters and flyers printed in English and Arabic, and visited worshippers at mosques to appeal for help.

Further leads have been pursued in Germany, Belgium, Canada and France – but police are yet to make a breakthrough in the case.

Detective Inspector Will Reynolds, the senior investigating officer on the case, said: “I still think that the key to identifying his killer will be through continued help and information from the community, particularly the North African community, living and working in London’s West End in 1991.

Council gets tough on estate agents

WESTMINSTER City Council has launched a crack-down on estate agents, with new rules to make it harder for them to set up shop. The move follows a surge in the number of estate agents in the borough, which now has more than 200.

“From January, new planning rules will ensure that all conversions of shops to services such as estate agents, employment agencies and bureaux de change in Westminster’s high streets require planning permission,” said a council spokesman.

“The measures follow a 27 per cent increase in the number of estate agents in Westminster last year – the largest seen anywhere in London. The sudden influx has changed the character of several areas, reducing variety in the city’s shopping districts which make these areas less attractive for shoppers.”

The Article 4 Direction will allow the council to limit particular industries from dominating retail space, ensuring that the city’s shopping districts continue to serve their community with a wide range of businesses and retailers.

Westminster currently has around 230 estate agents. This year the online estate agent HouseSimple.com carried out the research that found there were some 2,900 estate agents in the capital, outnumbering the total of independent butchers, greengrocers and fishmongers.

Cllr Robert Davis, Westminster City Council deputy leader and cabinet member for the built environment, said: “In the last year, we have seen an increase in the number of estate agents in Westminster that has put the character of some centres at risk. These measures will protect variety on our high streets and improve everyone’s shopping experience.

“This is not a blanket restriction. Some financial services, like local bank branches, which provide valuable local services will be encouraged – but if we do not act now, our high streets are under threat of being overrun. The action we are taking will help us strike the right balance so that Londoners continue to have a range of shops and services on their doorstep.”

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Advertisement feature



Baristas Fusion. Right the Toddy trail map

A hot toddy is just what Santa ordered

BY CHARLIE STONG
charlie.stong@slp.co.uk

Market area residents and shoppers have just five days remaining to take advantage of Portobello Café Society Toddy Trail offers at 22 shops and stalls.

But even after this promotion is over, there are plenty of reasons to keep coming back to the market and the fantastic selection of nearby businesses.

One Toddy Trail stop, Baristas Fusion, has won a prestigious Good Food Award.

Formed in 2002 the Good Food Awards provide a unified award system throughout the United Kingdom representing good quality and value.

Baristas Fusion cafe/restaurant in Lancaster Road is a family-run business with a varied delicious menu and pleasant ambience. Until Saturday, December 24, diners presenting a Toddy Trail leaflet can enjoy a home-made super burger or veggie burger with wine for just £8.50.

Residents and visitors also have until Saturday, December 24 to collect five Toddy Trail teapot stickers to enter a prize draw for one of two prize packages consisting of a pair of

Electric Cinema tickets and a 500ml tub of Jude's Laphroaig Hot Toddy ice cream.

Simply collect stickers from five Toddy Trail stops (no purchase necessary), fill in contact details, and leave the Toddy Trail leaflet at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Street Trading Office, 72 Tavistock Road, W11 1AN before 1pm on Wednesday, December 28.

Winners will be announced that day and will need to collect their prizes from the same location between January 3 and 7, 2017.

The colourful Toddy Trail artwork was designed by market area resident Gill Bradley, who in 2014 won an international competition to design the logo for the market's 150-year celebrations in 2015.

Gill said: "Portobello has been my home since the late 1970s.

I derive great pleasure from creating work that supports, celebrates and reflects this fascinating, eclectic and slightly crazy area".

● For full Toddy Trail terms and conditions visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/ourmarkets.

● To learn about the Portobello Café Society visit www.portobellocafe.society.org.uk.



Your favourite market is open for business this Christmas!

15 December 2016

Are you looking for a last-minute gift? Do you need a few extra bits and bobs for your family celebrations? Not to worry.

The market will be open all day Thursday, December 22, as well as on Saturday, December 24.

Check with your favourite stallholders to confirm who will be trading when, as a few of them might need to dash away for their own festivities.

The market will also be open during normal trading times on Saturday, December 31.

Hard-working Kensington and Chelsea street traders will rest on Monday, December 26, Tuesday, December 27 and Monday, January 2, 2017.

Starting on Saturday, January 7, 2017 and through to the end of the month, some traders whose normal pitches are

between the Westway flyover and Golborne Road might decide to huddle for warmth between Elgin Crescent and Lancaster Road.

Shoppers should keep an eye out for some of their favourite stalls in unexpected locations during the month of January.

Share your market love with the world by voting Portobello & Golborne Britain's Favourite Market until January 10.

There is no restriction on voting (within reason) so please visit www.nabma.com and vote today!

For opening times and other market information visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/ourmarkets.

To vote

● Portobello & Golborne Britain's Favourite Market visit www.nabma.com and click on the vote now button.

Vote for you favourite stallholder



Resident Gill Bradley





Wrap up your Christmas at Portobello and Golborne Road Market

TAINA MATTHEW,
AGE 6
ST CHARLES
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Fruit and vegetables for your dinner, antiques and fashion for your gifts, international street food while you shop.

Join the Toddy Trail for special discounts and promotions at market stalls and local shops.

Collect stickers for a chance to win tickets to the Electric Cinema and a tub of Jude's Laphroaig Hot Toddy ice cream.

Get your presents wrapped at a fundraising gift wrap stall on 2, 3, 4, 10 and 17 December.

Vote 'Portobello and Golborne' Britain's Favourite Market at www.nabma.com from 1 December 2016 to 10 January 2017.

Opening times

Thursday	22 December	Open until 7pm*
Saturday	24 December	Open until 7pm*
Monday	26 December	Closed
Tuesday	27 December	Closed
Saturday	31 December	Open until 7pm*
Monday	2 January 2017	Closed

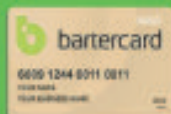
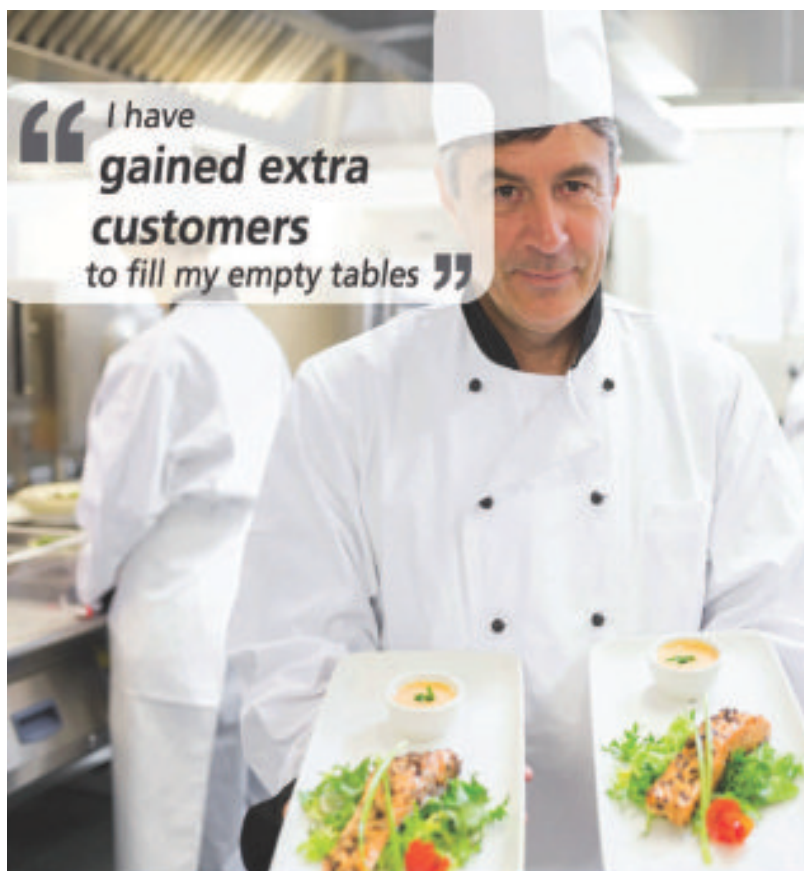
*some stalls may close early

For details visit:
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Jimmy Page 1977 by Neal Preston © Jimmy Page

£1k price tag for pic of Zep star

JUST in time for his neighbour Robbie Williams to ask Santa for the set for his Christmas stocking, Kensington rock god Jimmy Page has issued a new exclusive edition of fine-art prints of himself at £1,000 a pop.

The signed, limited edition of photographs is the second collection of the legendary guitarist's collaboration with five renowned photographers who have captured iconic images of the Led Zeppelin superstar throughout his career – Chris Dreja, Janet Macoska, Neal Preston, Tony Defilippis and Claude Gassian.

The numbered prints are being offered for sale on Page's personal website, jimmypage.com, where potential buyers are urged to handle with care the collectors' items which will increase in value.

"Strictly limited in an edition of 50 prints, each 16in x 20in fine-art photographic print is individually numbered and has been hand-signed by both Jimmy Page and the respective photographer," the site informs.

"This collection of museum-quality fine-art photographic prints has been produced to the highest standards to be framed and displayed as pieces of art.

"Jimmy Page and each photographer have worked closely together with

the darkroom technicians and printer to produce this highly-collectible print.

"This official Jimmy Page fine-art print is available now, sold individually from numbers 11 to 50 on a first come, first served basis.

"As is customary in the art world, the price of the fine-art prints will increase as the editions sell through.

"Once an edition is sold out, it will never be made available again.

"Silver gelatin photographic printing is the traditional way of producing photographs.

"Each one is a piece of art and should be treated as such.

"They are extremely delicate and particularly sensitive to handling.

"We advise that you do not remove the print from its protective archival bag or handle the paper directly but bring it directly to a professional framer.

"Request acid-free museum board for mounting and matting to best display and preserve the photograph when framed.

"Further care instructions will be included with each print upon delivery."

The photographic project was first launched in 2012 with a different selection of limited-edition prints, which sold out.

For further details, go to jimmypage.com.

2016 – year of the big shocks

London Tory MEP Syed Kamall writes for the London Weekly News



WHAT has been an incredible year is drawing to a close. 2016 will go down as the year when the experts – the media, the bookies, the pollsters and the pundits – all got it wrong on a global scale.

Brexit and Trump are prime examples. Throw in Leicester City and 2016 was beyond doubt the year of shocks and sensations.

We have seen disruption of the old order, a challenge to those who think only they have a right to lead. In the two votes, we have seen an entire political class and sections of the media fail to recognise what was happening among ordinary voters outside their insulated, cosmopolitan worlds.

In addition we have seen migration on a Biblical scale, in part driven by the horrors of a bloody, complex and intractable civil war in Syria. That too has caught out the experts and left the EU in particular floundering for an answer.

Some Syrian refugees have found a home here in London and they will be welcome in a city that welcomes strangers and cares for the afflicted. In addition, the British government has given over a billion pounds to help people nearer their home countries.

It is right that we should do what we can to help genuine refugees in their time of crisis, while being vigilant against those who – while not fleeing war or persecution – understandably seek a better life in our countries but try to jump the queue over others who have applied through legal migration channels.

As this year of tumult closes, you will hear many predictions of what 2017 will bring.

It looks unlikely that Leicester City will win the Premier League.

Looking across the Atlantic, we must hope that Donald Trump will continue to disown some of the rhetoric he used during his presidential election campaign and build bridges with those who did not support him.

We await the triggering of Article 50 as the British government begins negotiations to respect the result of the referendum to leave the EU.

Predictions vary hugely. They range from plain sailing and a highly advantageous settlement with Brussels, through to predictions of not much changing right through to tales of catastrophe, collapse, humiliation and the end of civilisation as we know it.

Most of the people I talk to in London – whichever way they voted – accept the result of the referendum and want a successful Brexit. I am confident that both London and the country can look forward to more prosperous times.

As the world's fifth-largest economy, the third-largest trading partner of Germany and the second-biggest investor in the USA, with the fourth-largest defence capability, we will be free to make our own laws and negotiate the terms of our own trade deals. We will be able to create a fairer immigration system which no longer discriminates against non-EU citizens.

The final deal will probably not be achieved until 2018 or 2019, so the UK will remain an EU member throughout 2017. As long as the UK remains in the EU, I am sure that MEPs of all parties will continue to stand up for London and the United Kingdom – and do all we can to achieve a new relationship that enables the UK and the EU to thrive and be good neighbours.

In the meantime, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the New Year with family and friends, let us be grateful for what we have and think of our neighbours and others who may be alone or not so fortunate.

£1m boiler replacement scheme will give 500 Londoners warmer winter

FIVE hundred Londoners face a warmer winter thanks to a £1 million boiler replacement scheme launched by the mayor of London, Sadiq Khan.

The mayor has announced plans to help Londoners struggling to afford to heat their homes with a fund to replace or repair inefficient or broken boilers.

The new fund – called Better Boilers – is the first pan-London scheme of its kind to help some of the 11 million people living in fuel poverty in the capital.

“This pilot scheme will help up to 500 fuel-poor home-owners in London to keep warm this winter by replacing or replacing inefficient or broken boilers with A-rated ultra-low-emission appliances, and will reduce annual energy bills by an average of around £150 per household,” said the mayor’s spokesman.

“It will also reduce cold-related ill health and winter deaths, lower NOx emissions to help improve air quality, save up to 310 tonnes of carbon emissions a year, contributing to the mayor’s aim for London to be a zero-carbon city by 2050 and will reduce the risk of carbon-monoxide poisoning.”

Fuel poverty is a large and growing problem in the capital. The number of households unable to afford to heat their homes increased



by 26 per cent between 2012 and 2014 to more than 348,000 homes.

The mayor has committed to producing a fuel poverty action plan and to reducing bills through Energy for Londoners, his programme on energy and fuel poverty which aims to help Londoners get out of fuel poverty and put the capital on a path to zero carbon by 2050.

Mr Khan said: “It’s shocking that more than a million Londoners live in fuel poverty.

“In a great city such as ours, people should not have to choose whether to heat their homes or buy food.

“I am committed to making our capital a city for all Londoners, and part of that means

people being able to heat their homes and live in comfort, as well as breathe cleaner air. This scheme is another step towards achieving that.”

Jenny Saunders, chief executive of charity National Energy Action, welcomed the announcement.

She said: “In the absence of central-government funding to help people living in fuel poverty to repair or replace their heating systems, the mayor of London has stepped in. I applaud his initiative which provides financial and professional support to Londoners who are struggling to keep their homes warm.”

Paul Goulden, chief executive of Age UK London, said: “It’s a tragedy that the last confirmed figures showed there were 4,040 excess winter deaths in London in 2014-15, almost all of them older people.

“Replacing broken and inefficient boilers is one way of helping to reduce this figure, and this scheme will help those who wouldn’t be able to afford to do so otherwise.

“We’re glad the mayor is tackling this issue and hope the pilot scheme will succeed and be extended so no older Londoner ever has to make the choice between heating and eating again.”

Brexit makes best joke

THE nation has chosen the best Christmas joke of 2016 – and it’s about Brexit.

Written by Laura McDonnell, 27, the gag received 20 per cent of a public vote to find the top Christmas cracker. Her joke is: “How will Christmas dinner be different after Brexit? No Brussels.”

The joke was selected by a judging panel for television station Gold and put forward to a public vote.

Other gags in the poll included: “What do workers at Sports Direct get for Christmas dinner? About five minutes.”

And: “How do you recognise a Christmas tree from BHS? All the branches have gone.”

Also: “I bought my mum Mary Berry’s cookbook for Christmas – I tried to get Paul Hollywood’s but he’d sold out.”

Laura, an NHS project support worker from Edinburgh, said her comedic talent stems from her grandfather Ron McDonnell, who wrote jokes for Morecambe and Wise. “I got the interest from him and thought I would enter a few jokes,” she said. “I’ve entered the competition for about three years now, so didn’t think I would ever win. I’m still in shock, it’s great news.

“Maybe one day I’ll pursue a career in comedy, never say never. If my dad heard me say that though, he would probably laugh.”

Laura has won a prize of £1,500 in holiday vouchers and a box of bespoke Christmas crackers, one of which will contain her own joke.

Bruce Dessau, a comedy critic who headed up Gold’s judging panel, said: “One thing the British will always be good at is finding the funny side to almost any situation, and it’s no surprise that Brexit featured as one of the dominant topics of this year’s jokes.”

Other entries included: “What’s David Cameron’s favourite Christmas song? All I want for Christmas is EU.”

And: “Why didn’t Roy Hodgson go to visit Santa at the North Pole? He couldn’t get past Iceland.”

Rock star’s pal unlawfully killed by junkie – coroner

A CLOSE friend of rock star Pete Doherty was unlawfully killed by a junkie who injected him with a fatal dose of heroin, an inquest heard.

Guitarist Alan Wass, 33, was filmed struggling for life in the moments after Norman Campbell administered a lethal dose of the class-A drug at his West London flat in April last year.

Mr Wass, who played with Doherty’s band The Libertines, slipped into a coma and died at St Mary’s Hospital 11 days later, surrounded by his family.

Campbell, who has already been arrested once by police, now faces being re-arrested after the coroner ruled he was responsible for the manslaughter of Mr Wass.

The inquest – the third to be held into the death – heard that Campbell had bumped into Mr Wass and friends Martin Dillon and Marcel Donald, and they all returned to Mr Wass’ Notting Hill flat to take drugs.

Campbell denied injecting Mr Wass, who had lost the use of one arm after a fall, saying he believed Mr Wass had injected himself.

But senior Westminster coroner Dr Fiona Wilcox recorded a conclusion of unlawful killing, saying: “The logical inference I make on the findings is that Alan could not have injected his arm in this way.

“Somebody else had to have done it. It was not Martin. It was not Marcel. I find that it was Norman.”

Campbell, who had earlier been called to give evidence, groaned in the public gallery.

Dr Wilcox said: “The proper conclusion for me to record is unlawful killing, on the basis of an unlawful and dangerous act of manslaughter.

“This is no conclusion any coroner comes to lightly. But in my view, this is the only conclusion this court can record.

“Alan Wass was a young man, only 33 years old. He had a five-year history of treatment by a GP regarding his dependency on alcohol.”

She conceded that she could not be sure how Mr Wass, Mr Dillon, Mr Campbell and Mr Donald ended up in the same flat, but said there was extensive drug use.

Dr Wilcox said: “What happened in that flat



Alan Wass Picture: SWNS

is fundamental to this case. In his evidence, Martin Dillon said Norman had been invited into the flat because they didn’t know how to inject heroin. This is consistent with what we know about Alan’s drug history.”

She called Mr Wass a naive drug-user and said that not only would he not have known how to prepare heroin for injection, but that his injuries made it impossible.

She previously told Campbell: “The truth is that you made up the heroin, that you injected Alan, and left when he collapsed. That’s why you left the scene and that’s why you were angry with Marcel – that’s why you left so quickly, isn’t it?”

Earlier, Mr Wass’ mother Angela pleaded with Campbell to admit what he had done.

She said: “Please could you help us to understand why he invited people to his home and lost his life? We need to know what happened and you can tell us. Can you please tell us?”

“You are the only one that could help us to understand how he died.”

The inquest concluded that Mr Wass died of heroin, dihydrocodeine, diazepam and alcohol misuse.

At the end of the hearing, Campbell was ushered from the court by a police officer.

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Prince set to clash with star over wool

PRINCE Charles could face a fall-out with animal-rights activists over his campaign to boost the wool industry and another brush over his endorsement of a new official Highgrove shaving aid.

The Prince of Wales has long lobbied for the benefits of wool over synthetic materials and he recently revived the campaign at a conference of wool-industry chiefs in Dumfries.

The prince told the business leaders: "The Campaign for Wool started eight years ago when a few of us decided to see what could be done to reverse the decline in the wool industry. We wanted to ensure a sustainable supply of wool from across the Commonwealth and beyond. And to do that we knew we would have to raise awareness among consumers about the unique benefits offered by wool and draw attention to the ecological advantages it delivers.

"Apart from anything else, raising awareness about wool's remarkable natural fire-retardant properties seemed to me essential in an age dominated by health-and-safety concerns and the known dangers within interiors of houses of highly inflammable, synthetic furnishings, carpets and clothing.

"I can only say that I'd love to see many hundreds of growers, brokers, spinners, designers, fashion houses, manufacturers, retailers and others all following your lead. In so doing I believe they will position themselves as good citizens of the wool business, with what I hope will quickly become

a public and well-recognised seal of approval.

"As someone who minds deeply about the prospects for farmers and rural livelihoods and worries about the desperate environmental consequences for our children and grandchildren of relying on products made from fossil fuels, this is a cause that means a lot to me.

"So, I have just agreed to continue as patron of the Campaign for Wool for a further five years and I am very proud indeed to endorse the Dumfries House Wool Declaration.

"With your help, I am going to do everything I can to build on the success we have achieved, thus ensuring that wool receives proper recognition for all its wonderful, natural attributes."

However, doing everything that he can to promote the natural fibre could lead to a clash with movie and pop stars who support People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Although PETA has long championed Charles for his stand against serving cruelly produced foie gras at royal functions, its heralding of the prince could end as the group is lobbying hard against the wool trade, with the support of artists including Hollywood actress Alicia Silverstone.

PETA said: "Sheep are gentle individuals who, like all animals, feel pain, fear and loneliness.

"But because there's a market for their fleece and skins, they're treated as nothing more than wool-producing machines.

"If they were left alone and not genetically manipulated, sheep would

grow just enough wool to protect themselves from temperature extremes. The fleece provides them with effective insulation against both cold and heat.

"Shearers are usually paid by volume, not by the hour, which encourages fast work without any regard for the welfare of the sheep.

"This hasty and careless shearing leads to frequent injuries, and workers use a needle and thread to sew the worst wounds shut – without any pain relief. Strips of skin – and even teats, tails and ears – are often cut or ripped off during shearing."

Ms Silverstone is so adamant that we should "wear vegan" that she has posed nude for the PETA campaign with the slogan "I'd rather go naked than wear wool".

Goodness know, then, what she and PETA may say about the latest item on sale at the gift shop of the Prince of Wales' family residence, the Highgrove Signature Shaving Brush. Selling for £45, the gentlemen's shaving aid is billed "a medium-sized, badger bristle brush, ideal for use on coarse, stiff hair, helping to create a long-lasting shave".

The prince has long argued the case for the culling of badgers, believed by many to spread TB to cattle. As long ago as 2005 he was writing to the Blair government about the controversial matter, stating: "I do urge you to look again at introducing a proper cull of badgers where it is necessary" and "I, for one, cannot understand how the badger lobby seem to mind not at all about the slaughter of thousands of expensive cattle, and



yet object to a managed cull of an over-population of badgers – to me, this is intellectually dishonest."

PETA, which advocates cruelty-free shaving with synthetic-hair brushes is, of course, vehemently against any badger cull, saying: "Massacring wildlife in this way is wrong on every level.

"It's inhumane – according to the government's own report, hundreds of badgers who've been killed so far took more than five minutes to die.

"It's expensive – last year's killings cost taxpayers a staggering £1,212 per badger killed and the next round of culling will incur estimated costs of £33.6 million.

"And it's ineffective as there's no sound scientific evidence that killing badgers prevents the spread of TB."

Best then not mention to PETA the probably prickly matter of the Royal Family's traditional Boxing Day pheasant shoot at Sandringham.

Geoff Baker

BBC drama depicts duchess as 'vile and nasty' schemer

THE BBC's relationship with the Royal Family faces taking a dent next year when the broadcaster "proudly" airs its new drama in which Prince Charles is depicted as somewhat nuts and the Duchess of Cambridge is played as a swearing, "vile and nasty" schemer plotting to grab the power behind the throne.

The BBC has announced itself to be hugely fizzing that it is to bring the acclaimed and award-winning play *King Charles III* to the screen.

Its creator, Mike Bartlett, said recently: "I couldn't be more excited that *King Charles III* is now fully, brilliantly cast. We have an exceptional team, both in front of and behind the camera, and I'm looking forward to bringing this very contemporary royal tragedy to a national television audience."

Actor Charlotte Riley, who plays the Duchess of Cambridge, said: "I'm really excited to come on board *King Charles III*. It's a unique project to be both modern and rich in verse, and to play someone who is real but yet totally reimagined for this story is an exciting prospect for an actor.

"Kate Middleton is a really interesting woman, particularly within the context of this play, and it is a challenge

I am really looking forward to."

But whether the duchess is so knocked out with delight about it is another matter. For although the drama is fiction, Kate is portrayed in such unflattering light that pundits wondered if she could sue.

The plot centres of dissent within the Royal Family at some time in the future.

Charles and his family gather following the funeral of the Queen.

He then holds his first weekly audience with the Prime Minister, to discuss a new Bill for statutory regulation of the Press.

Charles expresses doubts that the law restricts freedom of the Press too much, and would allow governments to censor the news.

He asks the PM for alterations to the Bill – but the PM refuses.

The two men row as the leader of the opposition arrives for a weekly meeting with Charles, an innovation the new king has introduced.

The leader of the opposition expresses his own doubts on the Bill but he sees little alternative but for Charles to sign.

Meanwhile, Prince Harry has begun a relationship with Jess Edwards, a scuzzy repub-



Charlotte Riley, left, as the Duchess of Cambridge, right



lican, and both Charles and Prince William have seen the ghost of Princess Diana, who promises each of them that he will become the greatest king of all.

The next day, Charles' butler hand delivers the Bill to 10 Downing Street, with "Assent Reserved" written in place of Charles' signature.

The Prime Minister then threatens to pass a new law bypassing the royal assent and then pass the Press law – but Charles then dissolves Parliament before the PM can bring either of these plans into effect.

Protests begin across the country and civil war threatens.

Charles increases the Army guard at Buckingham Palace, offers his protection to Jess, whom the media have made the centre of a sex scandal, and agrees to Harry's wish to become a commoner.

The Duchess of Cambridge plans a solution, which turns out to be William publicly offering himself as a mediator between Parliament and his father.

He announces this at a Press conference without his father's knowledge and consent.

Seeing this as a betrayal, Charles reacts angrily but ultimately finds himself forced to abdicate in favour of William.

Although that is the gist, the detail is set to raise a few eyebrows.

The play certainly did when it opened in Islington a couple of years back and the *Daily Mail's* theatre critic noted: "This Kate is a schemer, poisonously ambitious, and she forces her father-in-law Charles to abdicate in the first days of his reign."

Quentin Letts continued:

"Before long she is using the F-word and making secret contact with the Labour Prime Minister.

"By the end, Kate is snarlingly 'vile and nasty' – as nakedly greedy for royal power as one of King Lear's bad daughters.

"Traditionally, royals don't sue – but if a theatre tried to portray any other living person in such a light, it might well find itself on the sharp end of a defamation action."

Traditionally, the royals don't issue statements rebutting media coverage either.

But as we've seen rather a lot of that practice recently, with princes Harry, William and Andrew each publishing stern corrections from the palaces, perhaps the BBC is risking a writ from the newly defensive royals, if Letts' assessment of the drama's depiction of one of Britain's favourite daughters is accurate.

The BBC, as one would expect of it, is playing down the production's potential for controversy, with spokesmen calling the play playful and poignant, a description somewhat at odds with the summation of *The Spectator*, which opined: "A script that breezily defames the royals ought to be great fun, but this cheerless, overblown little play

seems to have been created by political numbskulls for those of similar calibre."

The executive producers of the television version, Greg Brennan and Roanna Benn of the unfortunately named Drama Republic, clearly disagree.

"We are delighted and excited in equal measure that Mike Bartlett, one of Britain's most gifted writers, and the visionary Rupert Goold (director) will reunite to bring their extraordinary theatre production to television. Alongside the BBC, we are as proud as anything to be the producers of this standout event."

Tim Pigott-Smith, who played Charles in the original stage version and returns to the role in the television adaptation, is also talking it up.

He said: "It's a drama about us, now, who we are, and the relevance of our monarchy. Television gives it an important democratic voice."

But television also gives drama a much louder voice than that which reaches to a far smaller audience in the West End and it will be interesting to see how fans of the royals take to Twitter after the 90-minute drama airs in the New Year.

Geoff Baker

Fancy pulling a £134,500 cracker?

LONDON oligarchs and hedge-fund billionaires searching for the ultimate decoration for their Christmas table need look no further – now they can amaze their guests with diamond-stuffed crackers costing £807,000 for six. But each £134,500 cracker does not even come with a joke or a paper hat.

The crackers from online luxury store VeryFirstTo are the most expensive ever created.

“Six magnificent white diamonds selected by award-winning jeweller Tresor Paris, each in a distinctively different cut, feature in a set of beautifully hand-crafted crackers,” says the rich man’s store based in Tavistock Square.

“Those lucky enough to attend the Christmas dinner hosted by you will be surprised to find no joke, no hat, and no plastic whistle in their crackers, just a truly magnificent diamond. You and your guests will be enjoying \$1 million-worth of remarkable gems.”

Alternatively, you could pop down to Tesco where the same money would buy you 2,421,000 of the supermarket’s own-brand Silver Spot and Stripe crackers – which *do* contain a hat and a motto, along with a slightly less-substantial gift, like a plastic pastry-cutter in the shape of a Christmas tree.

The billionaires’ treats are designed and hand-made by House of Crackers of West Sussex, who have decorated the girl’s-best-friend creations with “especially selected exotic paper sourced from India, super sheer ribbon from Cheshire, poinsettia flowers and goose feathers”.

The crackers are not the only items of extravagant luxury on sale at VeryFirstTo for



The crackers cost £807,000 for six

Christmas. The company is also asking £23,500 for “the world’s most precious Christmas pudding”, its version of the pud that is £3 at Tesco.

But the very posh pudding is a cut above your usual tummy-filler. Instead of being baked with an old sixpence inside, this contains “a highly-collectible gold Henry VI Salut d’Or coin”.

VeryFirstTo says: “The coveted coin from Baldwin’s, one of the largest Numismatic dealers in the world, is worth £7,500 and shows the Angel Gabriel facing the Virgin Mary and the Latin cross on the reverse.”

The pudding’s other luxury ingredient is a 200-year-old cognac, Duret 1810, which costs £10,890 a bottle.

Those not fully sated by VeryFirstTo’s pudding can also gorge themselves on “the world’s most decadent Christmas hamper”, for £85,605.

“The hamper contains sought-after foods including the very rare Almas caviar. Only one in 6,000 sturgeon carry the amazingly golden yellow albino eggs that are, without

doubt, the true treasures of the caviar world,” says VeryFirstTo.

The hamper’s full contents are:

FOOD: 250g Golden Almas Iranian Caviar £6,250, 250g Love 2014 Saint James Prunier Caviar £790, 310g Rougie Bloc of Goose Foie Gras with Truffles £100, 600g Duck Foie Gras £98, 100g Black Winter Truffles (Grade A) £140, 100g White Truffles (Grade A) £275, Long Clawson Blue Stilton £10, 2kg Bleu Du Verscors-Sassenage, Whole Wheel, £109, Smoked Salmon £23.50, 1kg Joselito Chorizo Iberico Bellota £50, 8kg Joselito Gran Reserva Ham £630, Blini (Minis) £4.95, Roberto Cavalli Lemon and Gianduja Chocolate Wafer Cake £49.95, The Big Box of Chocolates £48, Christmas Cake £40, Carved Angel Christmas Pudding £32.

DRINK: Cognac Jules Robin 1789 £30,000, The Glenlivet £17,995, 1x Moët Chandon Dom Perignon 1961 Charles & Diana Magnum £7,000, 1x 2002 Romanee Conti Romanee-Conti; Domaine de la Burgundy £8,671, 1x 2002 Le Montrachet Blain-Gagnard; J-M £4,038.

NON-ALCOHOLIC: 100g TWG White Christmas Tea £59, 300g Charbonnel et Walker Hot Chocolate £7.

CONDIMENTS: 10cl Terre Bormane Vinegar Tradizionale di Modena 25 years £184.95, 500ml Lambda Olive Oil £50, 250g Plantin White Truffle Butter £24.95, Rose Champagne Jelly £12.50, Cartwright & Butley Onion Chutney £4.

ACCESSORIES: 2 x Versace Champagne Flutes £580, Cedes Milano Mother Of Pearl Bottle Opener £265, 2x Mother Of Pearl Caviar Spoons £49, 1 x Mother Of Pearl Caviar Serving Dish £29.

Would-be doc sleeps rough for charity

A WOULD-BE doctor is sleeping rough in London this Christmas to raise funds for homeless charity Crisis.

James Beavis is spending a month on the streets of the capital and hopes to raise awareness of the increasing number of homeless people in London, as well as raising funds.

This will be the second time James, 26, has taken on the challenge of sleeping rough, having spent a week over Christmas 2012 on the streets. He raised more than £28,000.

This year he has extended the challenge to 31 days but has said he is already finding it much harder, having been moved on several times and with temperatures dropping to around 2C at night.

James – who is studying medicine at the University of Aberdeen and hopes to become a doctor for charity – left home this month with a sleeping bag, a backpack of the bare essentials and no money.

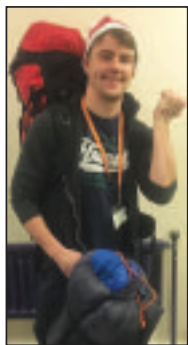
He is begging to pay for food and, while he has taken a mobile phone to keep supporters updated and promote his cause when he can afford to keep it charged, he plans to make no direct contact with family over the Christmas and New Year period.

On why he decided to take on the challenge a second time, James said: “I’m doing it again as there is a lot more people on the streets since last time – the issue is getting worse.

“While the government estimates that London now has more than 1,000 more rough sleepers than four years ago, charities estimate this as well over double that figure.

“Crisis genuinely are a saviour at Christmas. When others spend time with their family, those with nothing or nobody to share Christmas with are at their most low.

“Crisis does incredible work throughout the year but at Christmas they do something truly special. When other shelters close their doors, Crisis opens its arms, welcoming more than 4,000 guests who have no home.



James about to leave home

“Not only do they offer kindness, warm food and somewhere to rest, they offer a route into longer-term support for those who are being failed by the system. However, this comes at a cost and with your help we can make sure that everyone who needs support this Christmas can receive it.

“This time I’m doing it for a month. It’s much harder as temperatures have been cold and my old spot has been removed. Sleeping on the street leaves you extremely vulnerable and I have been moved on from the safety of my spots.

“Nights are pretty scary at the moment but hopefully I’ll find somewhere better soon. Absolute respect should be given to those who do this every night. I’m struggling already.”

To sponsor James online, visit VirginMoneyGiving.com/JamesBeavis. You can also follow his progress at facebook.com/homelessatxmas and use #homelessatxmas to raise awareness.



James on the streets of London, raising money for charity Crisis

Gong for LondonIsOpen

SADIQ Khan has a bright future in advertising if he ever gets tired of running City Hall – his #LondonIsOpen slogan has been voted up there with “go to work on an egg”.

The #LondonIsOpen campaign to promote the city following the UK vote to leave the European Union has won Best Marketing Award at the International Congress & Convention Association.

The campaign, which was launched by the mayor and supported by London & Partners, the official promotional company and convention bureau for the city, aimed to show the world that London remains open, entrepreneurial, international, and full of creativity and possibility, while reassuring the more than one million foreign nationals who live in London that they will always be welcome.

“The campaign helped change the narrative around the referendum by providing a positive voice for London and capitalised on the more favourable exchange rate, resulting in a 41 per cent increase in convention-bureau inquiries between June and September compared to the same period last year,” said the mayor’s spokesman.

Mr Khan said: “Our #LondonIsOpen campaign has proved conclusively that despite the decision to leave the European Union, London will always remain the best city in the world. We will always be creative, outward-looking, open to people from different backgrounds and full of opportunities – and nothing will ever change that.”

“We have worked with so many partners across the city to make this campaign such a huge success and we look forward to continuing to push home the message that London will always be welcome to everyone and the best city in the world to live in, work and visit.”

#LondonIsOpen engaged all sectors of the city and was backed by some prominent figures such as actor Jude Law and double Olympic and world champion runner Mo Farah. The #LondonIsOpen campaign is also supported by the public-relations company Freuds.

UNDER THE WESTWAY

Alan Brown, Westway Trust chairman, shares an adapted and extended version of his opening remarks from the organisation’s recent annual meeting.

WESTWAY Trust’s 2015 AGM was challenging to say the least, and at its heart it brought us face-to-face with deep frustration and sadness from parts of the community that we had not understood, and reflected the needs and wants of people living and working here. As a charity, set up to benefit local people, hearing such discontent was extremely upsetting and concerning for all of us and inspired urgent action.

We have spent the following year working more deeply with individuals and interested groups, our members and a small group from Westway 23, to better understand what has gone wrong and how we can find a way to build a positive relationship.

What is encouraging is that we have now opened up channels of communication with many more people. We are grateful to those who have spent time sharing their views, and hope you will agree that the proposals and decisions coming forward more recently reflect your feedback. But we are not complacent and we know we still have more to do.

Going forward, we have set out a commitment that as our plans progress we will engage with people at the outset, and talk frankly and openly about the challenges we face, the choices we have to make and the opportunities that lie ahead. We will look to work with and involve even more people in designing our spaces and initiatives.

As well as the engagement work that has gone on, I want to highlight three specific areas where we have made headway.

Immediately after last year’s AGM I made it my personal mission to enhance the diversity of

Westway Trust’s board and its connectivity with the local community. We have made three appointments this year – Angela Spence, who has worked in the area for more than 20 years and is chief executive of the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council, local ward councillor Monica Press, and Sheraine Williams, a representative of Westway 23. All three have been assets to the board and have brought new and important perspectives.

The second aspect I want to focus on is the variety of cultural and artistic activities that have been organised with the community this year. We celebrated 50 years of Notting Hill Carnival by supporting the London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprise Trust dinner, Notting Hill Nurseries Carnival and Carnival Pioneers.

We also supported other significant local events including In-Transit, Portobello Live, Portobello Film Festival, Nour Festival of contemporary arts and culture from the Middle East and North Africa, and Grove Roots Revival. In addition, we helped produce the Portobello Summer Festival, the trust’s 45th anniversary (which also commemorated the passing of the trust’s first director, Anthony Perry) with Portobello Film Festival and local DJs, and at the beginning of December we worked with local traders, the council and local business people to promote the Portobello Winter Festival.

Finally, and more recently, I am pleased we have reached an agreement with the North Kensington Community Stables CIC. After some creative thinking on both sides, we have both signed a document that sees them become our preferred community-riding partner.

While these are good examples of progress, the team and I are well aware we are on a journey and there is still much more to do. Next year we will advance our en-

agement with the community at large to host more public forum meetings outside of the AGM, involve more people in deciding what goes on under the motorway, and activate more of the spaces under the Westway. We also want to make tangible progress on tackling the impact of air pollution from the motorway.

It was important to hear from as many people as possible at the 2016 AGM and members of the community raised some further issues with us.

Some of them we will be able to respond to quickly, such as the criteria for membership of the trust and transparency of our complaints procedures. Others will need deeper examination such as issues of race and equality, the call for more cultural and civic space on the estate, how we tackle the impact of poor air quality locally and the shared concern about the future of trust land in relation to the planned Silchester Estate redevelopment.

I’m glad these issues were raised – we take them seriously and commit to working on these matters.

Some of our member organisations have said that they didn’t feel there was space for them to speak about issues important to their own beneficiaries. Those who did speak at the AGM did so with a mandate but there are many wide-ranging views locally and we must ensure that a few voices do not dominate the conversation. Together we have to find ways to engage with the widest possible diversity of ideas and opinions.

The recent annual meeting was again challenging but productive. The team at Westway Trust are already working hard to consider how best to respond to the concerns and priorities shared. We are committed to building on the progress that we have made so far.

Capital nights

IT'S been a momentous year for music. We've waved good-bye to some of the biggest names in the business and seen a new breed of stars take to the stage. In the final edition of *Capital Nights* in 2016, our resident music critic Jack Dixon takes a closer look at the London acts that have stolen the limelight this year.

KATE TEMPEST

POET, playwright, rapper, writer, singer, spoken-word artist – Kate Tempest is many things to many people.

At barely 30 years of age, she is already a prolific producer of content, whether in the medium of music, theatre or the written word.

Last year Tempest published her first novel, *The Bricks That Built The Houses*, and in 2016 she celebrated the runaway success of album number two, *Let Them Eat Chaos*.

But the Brockley-born performer is certainly no flip-flopper. Every one of her projects to date has displayed a profound artistic maturity and a sense of striving.

Like all truly great artists, she has the potential to expand her niche appeal to a mass audience, to change stubborn minds and open up ears to new thinking.

At the heart of her ethic is a keen eye for the other; she absorbs the people around her and communicates a deep human empathy.

Her majestic control of language bleeds into her everyday speech. Each sentence feels as carefully constructed as her finest poem. It exemplifies not a pretentious thirst for fancy but a personality perfectly attuned to the real world.

It's brought to life on the stark *Europe Is Lost*, one of the most arresting tracks on the new album.

"Massacres, massacres, massacres, new shoes," she spits, contrasting our fleeting distractions with the unimportant in the face of tragedies we can't begin to understand.

This is one of several characters that are introduced to the listener on *Let Them Eat Chaos* – a sprawling panoply of people brought to life simply through words and music.

The bubbling anticipation around Kate Tempest is poised to boil over in 2017 thanks to the success of *Let Them Eat Chaos* – a sign-of-the-times record by a rapper with an eagle eye.

SAVAGES

EVEN though *Savages* are still relatively new on the scene, the Londoners have raced towards the top of their niche.

Held up as feminist icons for today's generation, the four-piece have been touted among the most essential groups to emerge from the capital this side of the millennium.

Combining crunching, industrial guitars and rumbling drums with singer Jehmny Beth's explorative lyrics, the four-piece are

5 LONDON
ACTS WE'VE
LOVED THIS
YEAR



introspective and thoughtful while at the same time explosive, bursting with an animal rage that brings an on-the-edge vitality to their music.

It's guttural, snarling and angry, with a sense of peace and purity at its core.

Savages talk of "positive manipulations", using music and words to "strike like lightning" and striving to understand the "will and desires of the self".

They came together in 2011, naming themselves after the child savages that come to blows on the mysterious island in William Golding's novel *Lord Of The Flies*.

Within months they were gigging around London and bagged a support slot with indie rock band British Sea Power.

A year later the BBC was tipping them in its Sound Of 2013 poll and all hell broke loose when their triumphant debut album

Silence Yourself was released that spring. And they returned with a follow-up, *Adore Life*, in January this year – another frantic and beautiful affair.

Determinedly poetic, the group's music perfectly represents the search for clarity amid the fragmentations of modern life.

Juxtaposing the title *Adore Life* with the defiant album art of a fist raised in the air is symbolic, says Beth.

"It just shows that you can find joy and warmth and appreciation of life, and the desire to love and be loved, and all those things that don't come that easy."

JAMES BLAKE

JAMES Blake was just 21 when he was thrust into the limelight, hailed from a young age as the UK's next top talent. But 2016 was the year when he became a major player in the field.

Blake's wafer-thin songwriting style is delicate, tender and soothing, and his sultry tones wash over the airwaves like the ocean gently lapping at the shore.

If it was a niche genre when Blake emerged with his self-titled debut album in 2011, this softly spoken, dreamy electronica is now firmly part of the mainstream.

Incorporating elements of R&B and soul music too, Blake knits together a patchwork of influences to create something entirely original. His downbeat rhythms and melancholy lyrics are now the staple fodder of sombre bedroom kids – and Blake, 28, is often labelled as morose.

"It's like the opposite of punk, isn't it?" he quipped in an interview with *The Guardian* this year. "I got them all to shut up. I've subdued a generation. That will be my legacy."



Continued on facing page

Capital nights

From facing page

The five years since Blake's debut have seen him tinker with his sound while maturing into an artist fully in control of his own creativity.

Working with the likes of Beyonce and Frank Ocean, he has even drawn critical praise from the notoriously hard-to-please Kanye West.

Following the triumphant release of his third album, *The Colour In Anything*, this year, Blake can now count himself among the UK's most successful musical exports.

Despite their sombre tones and reflective gaze, his songs display an appreciation for many different cultures and communities.

There's a vibrancy about his music often missed by those caught up in the image of Blake as a doom-laden misery-monger.

With a growing list of celebrity fans, Blake has positioned himself among pop royalty. There are no bounds to what he can achieve in 2017 and beyond.

MICHAEL KIWANUKA

MANY of the songs on Michael Kiwanuka's second album Love & Hate were written as he wrestled with the creative demons of his own past.

But emerging in the midst of 2016's Brexit summer, they felt wrapped up entirely in the here and now.

Exploring his own personal vulnerability as a black man "in a white world", the 29-year-old Londoner captured the discord and confusion of a topsy-turvy year.

It's hard to tell whether Kiwanuka inadvertently found his finger on the pulse or if he truly does have a gift for foresight. What



James Blake

is unquestionable about his songwriting, however, is its unflinching honesty.

Love & Hate is a deeper, darker effort than his debut, 2012's *Home Again*, which earned the Muswell Hill singer a nomination for the Mercury Prize.

Out goes the sweet and summery acoustic chill, replaced by a more intense brand of soul infused with Kiwanuka's poignant and confessional lyrics.

Songs like *Father's Child*, *Place I Belong* and this summer's radio mainstay *Black Man In A White World* are indicative of the struggle for identity and individuality in a confused society.

The singer had previously spoken of his temptation to give up music after going through a creative dry spell after the acclaim for his debut.

But he says it was this determination to dig deeper and face up to his demons that drove him to complete *Love & Hate*.

The self-effacing Kiwanuka, whose maturity belies his relative inexperience, lists honesty, emotion and vulnerability among the key elements of a great song.

And they're found in abundance on the album, which harks back to the soulful sounds of Bill Withers while retaining a chart-friendly currency.

In 2017 Kiwanuka is well placed to become an unlikely voice-of-his-generation figure at a time of great political upheaval.

THE INVISIBLE

LIFE on the road is usually portrayed as a thrill-a-minute ride without pause for breath. The last few years, however, have been a very different experience for The Invisible.

For a time it seemed as though obstacle after obstacle would prevent the South London trio from ever making their return.

The band's own creative endeavour has certainly slowed them down – each member has their hand in at least one other musical pie – but personal tragedy and even a near-death experience threatened to put a stopper in the story.

Singer Dave Okumu spent several years coming to terms with the passing of his mother – and the guts of that experience steered the band's second album, *Rispah*, in a darker direction.

But the long-awaited follow-up, *Patience*, released this year, has been characterised as Okumu's rebirth in the wake of the loss.

It nearly didn't happen at all, however. The singer suffered a severe electric shock while on stage in Lagos, Nigeria, in 2012.

The current charging through his bones was so powerful that Okumu recalled loved ones flashing before his eyes.

Seven years on from their 2009 debut – a little-known masterpiece – and the trio have reached a new zenith. *Patience* is far more celebratory than anything they have done before.

Featuring cameos from Anna Calvi, Conan Mockasin and Rosie Lowe, it's an undoubted triumph showing off the band's guile and dexterity alongside Okumu's lush vocals.

After their long period away, *Patience* marks a new beginning for The Invisible – and perhaps a creative kick-start for the band's enigmatic frontman.

"I believe that we're all original thinkers," says Okumu. "If you're allowed to pursue your own creative path, you will be original."



Michael Kiwanuka



The Invisible

School concert 'one of the best'

PORTLAND Place School showcased an array of exceptional pupil talent during its winter concert.

The show was held at Cecil Sharp House and gave all the guests a festive feel. The concert was described as one of the best yet, with a variety of group and solo performances.

The independent school drew on the resources of various performance groups, including the orchestra, big band, soul band, choir and chamber choir. Pupils had worked hard in rehearsals and came together on the night to blow away the audience with their perfectly timed and stunning recitals. Solo singers and musicians gave exceptional renditions.

The music included traditional Christmas songs and pieces by Bizet and Miles Davis.

Twenty per cent of the school's pupils were involved in the concert, making it one of the biggest yet. The staff choir is the largest to date.

Richard Brightwell, the school's director of music, said: "All of these students worked incredibly hard through the autumn term to learn and perfect a variety of pieces during lunchtime and after-school rehearsals. There are many musically talented pupils at Portland Place and the Christmas concert certainly evidenced this. It was a fantastic way to end the year."



The Year 6 choir



The orchestra



The big band



The chamber choir

John gives pal's son Christmas gift of life

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

MEDICS at Hammersmith Hospital helped a father give his son the ultimate Christmas gift – a new kidney.

Doctors carried out the life-saving transplant surgery on Henry Cutting after his father's oldest friend stepped up to donate a kidney of his own.

Hero grandfather John Pugh, 65, courageously offered to help when his friend of more than 30 years, Keith Cutting, revealed the full extent of his son's irreversible health condition.

John then became a living donor – and his first act was to help save 20-year-old Henry's life. He underwent a two-hour operation at the hospital in Shepherd's Bush – and the procedure has given Henry the chance to lead a normal life.

John, of Weston-Super-Mare in North Somerset, said: "When I heard about Henry's health I knew then I wanted to do something to help."

"This is a chance for me to do something for Henry that will be of great benefit for him and



John Pugh and Henry Cutting

change his life. He will no longer have to have kidney dialysis three times a week and should be able to live a normal, healthy life."

Henry, a trainee chef who lives in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, was diagnosed with a form

of chronic kidney disease in 2014. The condition has caused irreversible damage to the filtering function of his kidneys.

In March, doctors told him his kidney function had started to deteriorate further and that a transplant was the only option.

It will take John around 12 weeks to recover from the surgery – but Henry faces a much longer journey of rehabilitation. However, experts say the success rate of the operation is good and there is a 93 per cent chance that John's kidney will function well in Henry.

Keith – Henry's father, who first met John when the pair were students in Cardiff in the 1980s – said the transplant was the best Christmas present Henry could ever have.

"It is impossible for us to put into words how grateful we as a family are to John," said Keith. "He is giving Henry the gift of life."

John was inspired to become a living donor by the death of 17-year-old Fiona Braidwood. She died after suffering serious injuries in a car crash in Banwell, North Somerset, this year.

Fiona had signed up to be an organ donor. Several of her organs were later used to help others.

Henry said he hopes to return to playing rugby after the operation and thanked John for his generosity.

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entrepreneur

Charlie pipes up!



SMEs shouldn't have to wait what seems a millennium for cash

AMID the headline-grabbing furore surrounding our exit from the European Union, the government announced a positive move that will help make sure small and medium-sized business get paid.

For thousands of years society has been built on the premise that if you do a job for someone, or sell them something, the transaction is completed with a payment. However, for some modern SME businesses, their wait for payment feels like a millennium.

According to the Federation of Small Businesses, the overall level of late payment owed to SMEs stood, last summer, at some £26.8 billion, with, on average, 30 per cent of all payments arriving late in firms' accounts.

I agree with FSB national chairman Mike Cherry who said that we have a business culture that feels like one where it is OK to pay small firms late.

The FSB reckons that 50,000 business deaths could be avoided every year if that culture was changed, which would add £2.5 billion to the British economy.

To try to recover money owed to small firms, and boost the economy, the government has announced draft regulations that will see large firms and limited liability partnerships required to publicly report, twice yearly, on their payment practices and performance.

This will include the average time taken to pay supplier invoices. While I generally welcome this move, I wonder whether there will be an exemption for the country's many small LLPs as most will fall into the SME bracket that the government is trying to help.

If not, it will just create more red tape and form-filling for these small businesses, which are things the government has promised to crack down on.

Before the formation of the current post-referen-

dum government, former business minister Sajid Javid announced the Enterprise Bill, which laid out a strategy for helping new and growing UK firms.

This included a reiteration of the government's pledge to cut £10 billion in red tape by taking an axe to regulation and clamping down on independent regulators, which just add to bureaucracy. I just hope this requirement on LLPs doesn't fly in the face of that commitment.

That said, these regulations are a step towards making large firms think twice about what is essentially withholding payment from those who have provided products and services in good faith.

The government believes that it will put a spotlight on bad practice and lead to improved standards. I hope they are right but it's likely that, unless the regulations have any teeth, large businesses, which are often a law unto themselves, will carry on regardless and apologise for their indiscretions when required.

In the same way the naming and shaming of firms that have failed to pay the Minimum Wage has proven a successful move for the government, the late-payment regulations have similar potential.

The only difference is that the Minimum Wage offenders have tended to be small firms, which are less resilient to public pressure than big companies.

A system of hefty penalties should be introduced to hit big firms in the pocket and use the proceeds to give start-up grants to boost our small business community.

That would be a worthwhile task to hand to whoever lands the role of the government's small business adviser from autumn next year, making sure SMEs get a paid for the hard work they put in every day.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



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Talk of the town

MATHEW Horne, star of *Gavin & Stacey*, will join Lee Mack and Griff Rhys Jones when Moliere's classic comedy *The Miser* receives a West End revival next year.

The play has been newly adapted by Sean Foley and Phil Porter, and will be presented at Bath Theatre Royal and Richmond Theatre, prior to opening at the Garrick Theatre in London's West End on Wednesday March 1.

Horne has worked extensively in television where his credits also include *Are You Being Served?*, *Agatha Raisin*, *Worried About The Boy*, *Nan*, *Bad Education*, *Teachers* and *The Catherine Tate Show*. His stage work includes *Pride* (Trafalgar Studios and tour), *Charley's Aunt* (Menier Chocolate Factory and Theatre Royal Bath) and *Entertaining Mr Sloane* (Trafalgar Studios).

The miser of the title is Harpagon (Rhys Jones), a name adapted from the Latin harpago, meaning a hook or grappling iron. A match-maker motivated only by money, he sets his sights on wealthy spouses for his children, so his riches are safe from their grubby hands.



The Miser was first produced when Moliere's company was under the protection of Louis XIV.

It was loosely based on the Latin comedy *Aulularia* by Plautus, as well as from contemporary Italian farces.

The full West End cast also includes Saikat Ahamed, Ryan Gage, Simon Holmes, Andi Osho, Michael Webber, Ellie White and Katy Wix.

Rhys Jones is a two-time Olivier Award-winning actor, as well as a writer, presenter and comedian.

On stage, he has appeared as Fagin in Cameron Mackintosh's *Oliver!* (West End), the title role in *Charley's Aunt* (West End) and in Feydeau's *An Absolute Turkey* (The Globe).

His television credits include *Not The Nine O'Clock News* (BBC), *Alas Smith & Jones* (BBC) and *The World According To Smith And Jones* (ITV).

Best known for television and stand-

up work, Mack is widely recognised as one of the country's favourite comedians and has won multiple awards.

He is the writer and star of hit BBC One comedy *Not Going Out*, which has run for seven series and holds the accolade of being the BBC's longest-running sitcom.

Mack is a team captain on popular BBC panel show *Would I Lie To You?* and host of *Duck Quacks Don't Echo* on Sky One – and has toured the country with multiple sell-out stand-up shows.

The Miser will run at Richmond Theatre from February 21 to 25 and at the Garrick Theatre from March 1. For more details, visit TheMiserThePlay.com.

Eden Espinosa



BROADWAY superstar Eden Espinosa will join the cast of the rock musical *Lizzie* when it opens at Greenwich Theatre in February.

Espinosa is most recognised for her critically acclaimed portrayal of Elphaba in *Wicked* on Broadway and joins the previously announced Jodie Jacobs (*Carrie*, Southwark Playhouse, *We Will Rock You*, Dominion), Bleu Woodward (*Oh! What A Lovely War*, Stratford East) and Bjorg Gamst (*The Little Mermaid*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*).

On a sweltering summer morning in 1892, in a small New England city, a prominent businessman and his wife were axed to death in their home. Their daughter Lizzie Borden was the prime suspect and her trial was a coast-to-coast media sensation in what has become an American legend.

Lizzie features four women fronting a six-piece rock band and promises to include rage, sex, betrayal and murder. Billed as American mythology set to a blistering rock score, *Lizzie* is a new American musical with a sound owing less to Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Webber than to Bikini Kill, The Runaways and Heart.

Lizzie will run at Greenwich Theatre from February 22 until March 12. For more details, visit greenwichtheatre.org.uk and lizziemusical.co.uk.

First solo gig suggests bright future for ex-Collabro star

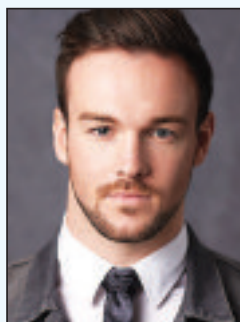
Richard Hadfield
Pizza Express Jazz Club

AFTER scoring international success with the vocal harmony group Collabro, Richard Hadfield made the brave move to branch out on his own earlier this year, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The Britain's Got Talent-winning band has given the young singer grounding in the music business and a large, loyal fan base, so his first solo gig at the Pizza Express Jazz Club in Soho last weekend was packed with exuberant and enthusiastic supporters.

The ultra talented showman didn't disappoint either, with an eclectic mix of jazz and swing classics blended with some fabulous festive fare.

Alongside his four-piece band, Hadfield filled the subterranean club with silky vo-



cals, while showcasing his glittering personality.

Funny, charming and hugely charismatic, the young singer held his own under the gaze of the multitude of jazz legends whose photos adorn the walls, with winning executions of traditional swing hits including *Witchcraft* and Frank Sinatra's *The Coffee Song*.

It wasn't just jazz, however, as the stylish crooner treated fans to some spe-

cially arranged renditions of some musical-theatre standards including a soulful take on *The Sound Of Music* classic *My Favourite Things* and an ingenious execution which involved *The Phantom Of The Opera* intricately infused with *The Pink Panther*.

The quality of Hadfield's vocals and obvious drive and enthusiasm made for an infectiously entertaining show.

And with the addition of some Christmas classics, this was a fabulous lunchtime break from the yuletide hustle and bustle of the city.

The future looks very bright for this young star – and with a number of exciting engagements planned for 2017, Hadfield's name is one to watch out for.

If you would like to keep up to date with news about Richard Hadfield, visit richardhadfield.london.

A2ndvoice & Friends
Fundraising Silent Disco - 3 Channels
Tooting Leisure Centre, SW17 0NE
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Since October 2015, A2ndvoice an autism voluntary group have worked in partnership with Tooting Leisure Centre and other local groups in hosting a range of programs and events at their centre in raising awareness and acceptance within the local community.

Donations raised will be used to host a range of sports and leisure activities for autistic people and to train two sport coaches in autism and disability training.

BOOK ONLINE NOW:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a2ndvoice-friends-end-of-year-party-sw17-tickets-28476438795



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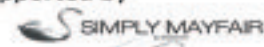
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Talk of the town

Dreamgirls will be a smash – that's reality

Amber Riley and Lily Frazer in *Dreamgirls* Picture: Brinkhoff/Mogenburg



Dreamgirls
Savoy Theatre

IT'S been 35 years since *Dreamgirls* was first staged on Broadway – and although the production at the Savoy Theatre marks the groundbreaking musical's UK and West End premiere, I can safely say it's been worth the wait, writes Nicky Sweetland.

With a stellar cast – which includes Amber Riley, the star of US television series *Glee* – the musical is a feast for the senses, providing a colourful, energetic and delightfully presented depiction of the burgeoning music industry of the early 1960s.

We are invited into a world where racism is rife and "coloured music" is only just beginning to make its way into the popular psyche.

A Chicago-based girl group called the Dreams are searching for stardom among the seedy underworld of the entertainment scene. They get their big break when a wannabe producer notices the stars in their eyes and employs the teenage band as backing vocalists for the charismatic crooner Jimmy Early (Adam J Bernard).

There are obvious similarities between this and other shows currently in the West End – the juke-box musical offerings of *Motown* and *Beautiful* – but for me, Henry Krieger's sensational score, including the smash hit song *One Night Only*, and the Tom Eyen book make this by far the most exhilarating.

When coupled with Casey Nicholaw's sizzling choreography and Tim Hatley's unpretentious set design – with towers of yoke spotlights – a magical tableau is created for the extraordinary cast to paint the heartwarming tale upon.

Riley leads the charge and is sensational as the ambitious soulful singer Effie White. Riley is well known for her powerful and soaring vocals, but it is the performer's comedy prowess which is fully exploited in a wonderfully exacting show of control and subtlety. Her maltreatment by the controlling and sinister Curtis (Joe Aaron Reid) is heartrending, but shows a nice departure for Reid, who is ordinarily cast in more congenial roles.

Liisi LaFontaine as Deena Jones and Ibinabo Jack as Lorrell Robinson are hugely impressive, showing phenomenally mature portrayals.

And when Lily Frazer joins the troupe after Effie's exit into obscurity, the trio shine with an effervescent energy.

Adam J Bernard is convincingly enigmatic as the silver-tongued Jimmy Early, while Tyrone Huntley as CC White ensures his continued ascent to West End stardom with a magnificently engaging performance.

Dreamgirls offers such broad appeal it will undoubtedly become a huge success – and the fantastic cast guarantees there are no nightmares here.

Dreamgirls is running at the Savoy Theatre. For more details, visit dreamgirlswestend.com.

TONY Award winner Frances Ruffelle will be joined by an all-star cast for Michael John LaChiusa's *The Wild Party*, which receives its first major London production at The Other Palace, playing from February to April.

The Wild Party will be the inaugural production at The Other Palace, formerly St James Theatre, when it re-opens in February as the newest addition to The Really Useful Theatres Group and a home for new musical theatre.

Joining the previously announced Ruffelle as Queenie is a plethora of West End royalty, with John Owen-Jones as Burrs, Simon Thomas as Black, Donna McKechnie as Dolores, Dex Lee as Jackie, Victoria Hamilton-Barritt as Kate, Ako Mitchell as Eddie, Gloria Obianyo and Genesis Lynea as the D'Armano brothers, Melanie Bright as Sally, Lizzy Connolly as Mae, Steven Serlin as Goldberg, Sebastian Torkia as Gold, Bronte Barbe as Nadine and Tiffany Graves as Madeline.

Owen-Jones is best known for his performance as Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, playing the role to acclaim in the West End, on Broadway and in the 25th anniversary production. He has also played the title role in *The Phantom Of The Opera* in the West End many times.

Thomas has played Raoul in *The Phantom Of The Opera* (Her Majesty's Theatre), Warner in *Legally Blonde* (Savoy Theatre) and Rapunzel's prince in *Into The Woods* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre). Television credits include *Drifters* (Channel 4), *Jonathan Creek* (BBC) and *Doctor Who* (BBC).

McKechnie is best known for creating the role of Cassie in the original Broadway production of *A Chorus Line*, receiving a Tony Award for her performance. Her many other Broadway credits include *Promises, Promises*, *On The Town*, *Company* and *State Fair*. *The Wild Party* will mark her return to the London stage for the first time in 20 years after appearing in *Follies* at Drury Lane.

As previously announced, Ruffelle will play Queenie. Ruffelle is perhaps best known for originating the role of Eponine

Previewing
THE WILD PARTY
at The Other Palace



Frances Ruffelle as Queenie in *The Wild Party*

Picture: Fern Berresford

in *Les Misérables* in the West End and on Broadway, winning a Tony Award for her performance. Her many other stage roles include Dinah in the original company of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Starlight Express* (West End), Roxie Hart in *Chicago* (West End), Frastrada in *Pippin* (Menier Chocolate Factory) and the title role in *Piaf* (Leicester Curve).

Set against a backdrop of Manhattan decadence and 1920s excess, *The Wild Party* tells the story of Vaudeville showgirl Queenie and Burrs, a Vaudeville clown, whose relationship is marked by vicious behaviour and recklessness.

In an attempt to salvage their toxic union, they decide to throw a party to end all parties. The guests are a vivid collection of the unruly and the undone – a co-

caine-sniffing bisexual playboy, a washed-up boxer, a diva of indeterminate age, a fresh-faced ingenue and a handsome Valentino who catches Queenie's roving eye. The party rages to a mounting sense of threat, as artifice and illusion are stripped away. But when midnight debauchery turns into tragedy, the revellers must sober up and face reality.

Based on Joseph Moncure March's narrative poem of the same title, *The Wild Party* originally opened on Broadway in 2000 with a cast including Toni Collette, Mandy Patinkin and Eartha Kitt.

The Wild Party will run at The Other Palace from Monday February 13 to Saturday April 1. For more details, visit theotherpalace.co.uk.

Carter in conversation with legends at Tricycle



Jim Carter

JIM Carter will return to the Tricycle Theatre next year with a special series of *In Conversation With* events.

The beloved actor, who is a longstanding supporter of the Tricycle, is returning as curator and will host evenings with Paul Greengrass and Danny Boyle, and a joint conversation with Dame Judi Dench and Dame Maggie Smith.

Carter said: "It's wonderful to be returning to the Tricycle, one of London's most vibrant theatres, to talk to these leg-

endary figures of stage and screen in what I hope will be an unmissable series of events."

Artistic director of the Tricycle, Indhu Rubasingham, said: "We're enormously grateful to Jim and his wonderful guests for their time and support for the company."

"I am excited and thrilled that the Tricycle will be hosting these special artists for a unique series of events that will not only help us to fundraise but also provide an extraordinary

experience for our audiences. I can't wait."

On Sunday February 5, join BAFTA Award winner and Oscar-nominated director Greengrass. The event will feature a one-hour conversation and Q&A session hosted by Carter followed by a screening of *The Bourne Ultimatum*.

On Sunday February 12, BAFTA Award-winning director Boyle will join Carter for a one-hour conversation and Q&A session, followed by a screening

of *Slumdog Millionaire*.

On Sunday February 26, two of the world's most celebrated actors – Dame Judi and Dame Maggie – will appear together in conversation for a one-off, inspirational evening hosted by Carter.

For a supplement of £25, audiences can attend a fundraising reception following the February 26 event. The reception will be hosted by Rubasingham.

For more details, visit tricycle.co.uk.

Talk of the town

IT'S been nearly 30 years since pantomime was last performed at the London Palladium – and the country's biggest provider of traditional Christmas theatre have pulled no punches with an all-star festive treat.

Qdos Entertainment present pantos throughout the UK every year to thousands of theatregoers.

And the expert mirth-makers have employed some of the most highly acclaimed practitioners of family entertainment to present the seasonal favourite *Cinderella* at one of the largest venues in London.

The seasoned performers bring all of the elements which a good old-fashioned panto should have, and create a colourful and vibrant show that will leave guests of all ages tittering in appreciation.

Apart from the must-have fairytale essentials, there are high levels of camp and innuendo expertly imparted by panto stalwarts Julian Clary and Paul O'Grady.

The duo are trusted to fire through the adult content with less focus on the ugly sisters – played with frivolous fun by Wendy Somerville and Suzie Chard – but with hilarious results.

Clary's Dandini raises the roof with every entrance, wearing increasingly opulent costumes while exhibiting an array of near-knuckle naughtiness.

O'Grady masterfully provides the evil side to the plot, with echoes of his former alter ego Lily Savage, but at times feels a little lacklustre during the big flamboyant production numbers.

Poor put-upon husband Baron Hardup, Steve Delaney's Count Arthur Strong, is also slightly underused and therefore never really gains his comedy stride.

Nigel Havers conversely makes the most of his limited stage time in an extremely appealing performance as the Lord Chamberlain.

The heartwarming fairytale is really brought to life, however, through the lovely Paul Zerdin as Buttons who – whether with his puppet companion Sam or when simply engaging the younger members of the audience on his own – pitches the gags at just the right level.

The object of his affection, Cinderella, is played with spirit by Natasha J Barnes, who after taking over from Sheridan Smith during her sabbatical from *Funny Girl* has somewhat fulfilled her very own rag-to-riches story in taking on the titular role.

With a beautiful voice and wonderful feisty nature, Barnes brings a bit of cool to the otherwise slightly wet character. And when she finds her Prince Charming, the incomparably enchanting Lee Mead, the couple provide some magic to the classic fable.

Amanda Holden further assists with the dreamlike sensation; flying in to begin proceedings and subsequently appearing in a



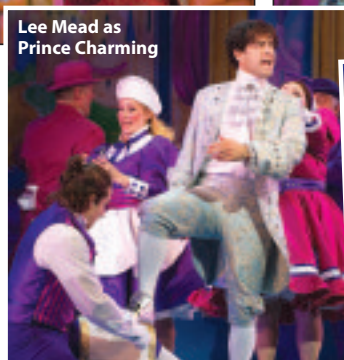
Julian Clary as Dandini and Nigel Havers as Lord Chamberlain
Pictures: Paul Coltas & Steve Williams



Natasha J Barnes as Cinderella



Amanda Holden as The Fairy Godmother



Lee Mead as Prince Charming



Paul Zerdin as Buttons



Paul O'Grady as Baroness Hardup and Count Arthur Strong (Steve Delaney) as Baron Hardup

Nicky Sweetland reviews
CINDERELLA
at Palladium

cloud of glitter to ensure the story takes the right path.

There are local references – with an abundance of naughty Soho comments – and plenty for musical fans thrown in, including nods to the leading pair's previous West End accomplishments.

An abundance of awe-inspiring stage effects, along with Andrew Wright's mesmerising choreography, result in a mirth-filled and colourful production which is skillfully executed.

It does miss out on leaving audiences skipping down the street by omitting the classic finale and instead rushing to the curtain call, but this is a minor misgiving in an otherwise excellent show.

Cinderella provides a fabulously over-the-top and energetic evening at the theatre for the family.

The show is fun and something which in these continually gloomy times brings a much-needed lift to the soul.

Cinderella continues at the London Palladium until January 15. For more details, visit cinderellapalladium.com.

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Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A3211 GLA ROAD (VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, CITY OF LONDON) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

- Transport for London having consulted the City of London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1), (5), (7) and 15(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and is satisfied that these works will last in excess of 18 months for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable Thames Tideway construction works to take place at A3211 Victoria Embankment.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any:
 - vehicle from entering, exiting or proceeding on the A3211 Victoria Embankment northern slip road connecting the eastbound carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment with the A201 New Bridge Street;
 - vehicle from entering, exiting or proceeding in the gap in the teardrop traffic island separating the northbound and southbound carriageways of the A201 New Bridge Street situated between a point 4 metres north of the extended northern kerb-line of Blackfriars passage and a point opposite the A3211 Victoria Embankment northern slip road connecting the eastbound carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment with the A201 New Bridge Street;
 - vehicle from entering, exiting or proceeding on bi-directional cycle track on the A3211 Victoria Embankment southern slip road and the southern side of the A3211 Victoria Embankment between its junction with the A201 New Bridge Street and a point opposite the extended eastern kerb-line of Temple Avenue;
 - vehicle, except pedal cycles, from entering, exiting, proceeding or stopping on the temporary bi-directional cycle track at the northern side of the A3211 Victoria Embankment northern slip road connecting the eastbound carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment with the A201 New Bridge Street between its junctions with the A201 New Bridge Street and the extended eastern kerb-line of Temple Avenue;
 - any pedal cycle proceeding in an easterly direction on the temporary bi-directional cycle track at the northern side of the A3211 Victoria Embankment northern slip road connecting the eastbound carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment with the A201 New Bridge Street between its junctions with the A201 New Bridge Street and the extended eastern kerb-line of Temple Avenue upon reaching its junction with New Bridge Street from proceeding in any direction except left onto the bi-directional cycle track on the A201 New Bridge Street towards Ludgate Hill or right onto the bi-directional cycle track on the A201 New Bridge Street towards Blackfriars Bridge;
 - vehicle from proceeding in any direction other than eastwards on the main traffic carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment northern slip road connecting the eastbound carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment with the A201 New Bridge Street;
 - pedestrian from entering, exiting or proceeding on the footway at the southern side of the A3211 Victoria Embankment southern slip road and the A3211 Victoria Embankment between its junction with the A201 New Bridge Street and a point opposite the extended eastern kerb-line of Temple Avenue.

The Order also:

- permits pedal cycles to turn left or right from the bi-directional cycle track at the western side of the A201 New Bridge Street into the temporary bi-directional cycle track at the northern side of the A3211 Victoria Embankment northern slip-road connecting the eastbound carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment with the A201 New Bridge Street;
 - suspends the one way operation on Carmelite Street between its junctions with Tallis Street and the Victoria Embankment northern slip road permitting two way operation.
- The Order will be effective at certain times from 12:01 AM on 2nd January 2017 until the works have been completed. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
- At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via **(for when the northern slip-road is one way eastbound or closed) (for southbound traffic on New Bridge Street)** Fleet Street, Strand, Arundel Street and Temple Place to normal route of travel, **(for northbound traffic on Blackfriars Road)** Stamford Street, Waterloo Road, Waterloo Bridge, Lancastrian Place, Aldwych, Arundel Place and Temple Place to normal route of travel, or Stamford Street, York Road, Westminster Bridge Road, Westminster Bridge, Victoria Embankment, and Temple Place to normal route of travel, **(when the slip road is closed) (for eastbound traffic on Victoria Embankment) (when the slip road is closed) Blackfriars Underpass, Puddle Dock and Queen Victoria Street to normal route of travel. (for traffic on Carmelite Street)** Tallis Street, John Carpenter Street, Tudor Street, New Bridge Street, Fleet Street, Strand, Arundel Street and Temple Place to normal route of travel **(for the closure of the southern slip-road) (for cycles)** use the northern slip road to normal route of travel, **(for pedestrians)** the pedestrian crossing to the eastern footway of New Bridge Street, to the pedestrian crossing north of Blackfriars Passage to the westbound footway of New Bridge Street, the footway on the northern slip-road and the pedestrian crossing to the southern footway of Victoria Embankment adjacent to Temple Place to normal route of travel.

6. The Order will be revoked upon completion of these works.

Dated this 20th day December 2016

Mufu Durowoju

Network Impact Management Team Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



TRANSPORT
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Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A302 GLA ROAD (VICTORIA STREET, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF STOPPING) ORDER 2016

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable carriageway realignment works to take place at A302 Victoria Street.]
- The effect of the Order will be to relocate the existing loading only bay outside Nos. 205 and 207 Victoria Street to outside No. 189 Victoria Street and No.10 Victoria Arcade and replace it with double red lines (no stopping at any time).
The Order will be effective at certain times from 12:01 AM on 21st December 2016 until 11:59 PM on 2nd April 2017 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - (1) Any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - (2) Anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.

Dated this 20th day of December 2016

Mufu Durowoju

Network Impact Management Team Manager, Road Space
Management - Operations Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

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ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(OVERSTONE ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Overstone Road between its junctions with Glenthorne Road and No. 1 Overstone Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Glenthorne Road, Hammersmith Grove, Adie Road, Kilmarsh Road and Iffley Road
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order will come into operation on the 3rd December 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works are expected to commence on Saturday 3rd December 2016 and last for 2 days. Back up dates are scheduled for either Saturday 3rd December, 2016, Saturday 7th January 2017 or Saturday 14th January 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 3rd day of November 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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Local Planning Applications

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

6 - 12 Gorleston Street London W14 8XS

2016/04654/FUL

Creation of 1no. additional studio unit (Class C3) in lieu of plant space within the previously approved planning permission ref:

2011/02610/FUL and subsequently varied in planning ref:

2013/01276/FUL and 2014/0683/S16

66 To 96 Railway Arches Wood Lane London W12 7DS

2016/05219/FUL

Change of use and refurbishment of railway arches 66-96 at Wood Lane relating to 1,765sqm of floor area, comprising 1,290 sqm of shops, restaurants, cafes, bars (falling under A1/A2/A3/A4 Use Class) and 213sqm of workspace (B1 Use Class); together with external alterations to create new shopfronts and erection of new supporting structures/enclosures, new pedestrian accesses, public realm improvements, landscaping, cycle parking, storage and associated works.

16 Ravenscourt Gardens London W6 0TU

2016/05262/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; installation of 2no windows to the side of the existing ground floor back addition.

35 Brook Green London W6 7BL

2016/04860/FUL

Erection of a single storey outbuilding in the rear garden.

65 New King's Road London SW6 4SD

2016/05169/FUL

Installation of 2no. antennas and 2no microwave transmission dishes mounted on free standing poles on the roof of the building; installation of 1no broadband equipment cabinet and ancillary development thereto at roof level.

121 Claxton Grove London W6 8HB

2016/05275/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition.

63 Brackenbury Road London W6 0BG

2016/05276/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at ground, first and second floor level following the demolition of existing conservatory; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the rear of the property.

1 - 12 Dan Leno Walk London SW6 2HN

2016/05277/FUL

Replacement of existing roof coverings with new Redland Cambrian reconstituted slates.

42 Oxberry Avenue London SW6 5SS

2016/05301/FUL

Retention of new front boundary wall; retention of a large shed, alterations to the roof and reducing the roofline of the shed.

57 Sundown Avenue London W12 0RR

2016/05306/FUL

Erection of a single storey extension, to the side and rear of the main building following the demolition of existing porch and conservatory.

64 Chiddingstone Street London SW6 3TG

2016/05165/FUL

Excavation of the existing front lightwell and extension to the side of the existing back addition and the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; and installation of a spiral staircase within the proposed rear lightwell from basement to ground floor level.

48 Lysia Street London SW6 6NG

2016/05203/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no.

rooflights in the front roofspace; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; erection of a rear extension at first floor level, over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; and excavation of part of the rear garden to form a lightwell, in connection with the creation of a new basement.

48 Lysia Street London SW6 6NG

2016/05204/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roofspace; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; erection of a part one part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; and excavation of part of the rear garden to form a lightwell, in connection with the creation of a new basement.

54 Edith Road London W14 9BB

2016/05281/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height; conversion of the third floor and part of the second floor level to provide 2 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

54 Edith Road London W14 9BB

2016/05280/FUL

Erection of single storey rear extensions; formation of external steps and installation of new doors at lower ground floor level to the rear elevation; alterations to the roof of the existing lower ground floor and upper ground floor level; conversion of the lower ground floor and part of the upper ground floor level to provide 3 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

54 Edith Road London W14 9BB

2016/05282/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension.

91 Wendell Road London W12 9SB

2016/05283/FUL

Erection of an enlarged dormer window to replace the existing dormer window in the rear roofspace.

Basement 4 Harwood Road London SW6 4PH

2016/04765/FUL

Change of use of the basement from an office (Class B1) into a self-contained studio flat (Class C3).

La Reserve Hotel 422 - 428 Fulham Road London SW6 1DU

2016/05278/FUL

Redevelopment of the site comprising the demolition of the existing hotel building and erection of a four storey plus basement building for use as a hotel.

Flat Second and Third Floors 140 Sinclair Road London W14 0NL

2016/05316/FUL

Erection of a glass enclosure to house an internal staircase and the erection of privacy screens at roof level in connection with its use as a terrace; associated external alterations at main roof level.

1 Henchman Street London W12 0BW

2016/05318/FUL

Installation of key clamp stair rails on both sides of the external front entrance steps leading from the pathway of house to the pavement.

8 South Park Mews London SW6 3AY

2016/05152/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension to replace the existing single storey glazed conservatory; conversion of the existing garage at ground floor level into a habitable room; and replacement of the garage door to the front elevation at ground floor level with a window.

24 Rylett Crescent London W12 9RL

2016/05081/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the rear of the property.

Land Bounded By Harbour Avenue And Lots Road London W14 9SD

2016/05302/FUL

Variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) (numbers) of Full Planning Permission 2012/03395/FUL granted 2nd July 2013.

Amendments relate to extending part of the building (Core C) from 8 storeys to 9 storeys and increasing the overall number of apartments from 89 to 92.

32 Larnach Road London W6 9NX

2016/05240/FUL

Excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

70 North End Road London W14 9AT

2016/05147/FUL

Conversion of the existing basement and part of the ground floor from retail (Class A1) into a day nursery (Class D1); formation of a side lightwell; alterations to the rear elevation of the main building to include the installation of new doors to replace the existing doors at ground floor level.

Barons Keep Gliddon Road London W14 9AT

2016/05244/VAR

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2014/04581/FUL granted 19th November 2014 to allow amendments to the approved drawings to include raising the height of the garages by four brick courses instead of three brick courses previously approved, alterations to the parapet wall treatment with re-constituted stone capping, installation of a sky lantern above the roof of the garage, installation of double doors in place of 2no single doors and installation of pedestrian entrance door to the garage.

1 Marville Road London SW6 7BB

2016/05247/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension including the formation of a hip to gable roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height; erection of rear extensions at first and second floor level, on top of the existing back additions; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; installation of a new window at first floor level to the side of rear back addition.

9 King's Parade Askew Road London W12 9AA

2016/05251/FUL

Amendments to the size and layout of the roof terraces at first and second floor level as approved under planning permission ref: 2016/01781/FUL granted 18th September 2016.

81-85 Bloemfontein Road London W12 7DA

2016/05214/FUL

Installation of a new shopfront to No. 81 Bloemfontein Road including new doors to replace existing door, in connection with the amalgamation of two retail (A1) units into a single retail (A1) unit.

81 Bloemfontein Road London W12 7DA

2016/05215/ADV

Display of a non-illuminated fascia sign to the front elevation.

60 Chiddingstone Street London SW6 3TG

2016/04993/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at ground, first and second floor level; formation of a roof terrace at second floor level to the rear elevation; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the front of the property; installation of new rooflights above the main flat roof and above the second floor roof of back addition; installation of an air conditioning unit at main roof level; installation of 2no air conditioning units above the roof of first floor rear back addition.

The Colton Arms 187 Greyhound Road London W14 9SD

2016/05127/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension with a rooflight on top to the side of the existing back addition; replacement of 2no doors with new doors to the side of the single storey back addition.

3 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05156/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

34 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05158/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber and upvc windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

15 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05160/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

16 Matheson Road London W14 8SW

2016/05161/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05162/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05163/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05164/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05165/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05166/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05167/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05168/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05169/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05170/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05171/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05172/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05173/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05174/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05175/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05176/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05177/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05178/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05179/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05180/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05181/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05182/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05183/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05184/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05185/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05186/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05187/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05188/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05189/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05190/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

13 Matheson Road London W14 8SN

2016/05191/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front, rear and side elevations with new double glazed timber windows and doors.

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Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(ROSTREVOR ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

PUBLIC NOTICE

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

DESIGNATION OF AN AREA FOR SELECTIVE LICENSING 2016

Section 80, Housing Act 2004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 83 Housing Act 2004 (Notification Requirements Relating to Designation) that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham acting as local housing authority in exercise of its powers under Section 80 of the Housing Act 2004 has designated the area described in paragraph 4 for selective licensing.

CITATION, COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

1. This designation may be cited as the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Designation for an Area for Selective Licensing 2016.
2. This designation is made on **13 December 2016** and shall come into force on **5 June 2017**.
3. This designation shall cease to have effect on **4 June 2022** or earlier if the Council revokes the scheme under section 84 of the Act.

AREA TO WHICH THE DESIGNATION APPLIES

4. The designation applies to the following streets as listed at Annex A.

APPLICATION OF THE DESIGNATION

5. This designation applies to any house which is let or occupied under a tenancy or licence within the area described in paragraph 4 unless:
 - a) the house is a house in multiple occupation and is required to be licensed under Part 2 of the Act;
 - b) the tenancy or licence of the house has been granted by a registered social landlord;
 - c) the house is subject to an Interim or Final Management Order under Part 4 of the Act;
 - d) the house is subject to a temporary exemption under section 86 of the Act; or
 - e) the house is occupied under a tenancy or licence which is exempt under the Act or the occupation is of a building or part of a building so exempt as defined in The Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (England) Order 2006 SI 370/2006

EFFECT OF THE DESIGNATION

6. Subject to sub paragraphs 5(a) to (e) every house in the area specified in paragraph 4 that is occupied under a tenancy or licence shall be required to be licensed under section 85 of the Act.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS/APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

7. If you are a landlord, managing agent, or a tenant, and wish to inspect this designation, apply for a licence or require further information, this is available from:

**Private Housing, Environmental Health,
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham,
Town Hall, King Street,
Hammersmith London W6 9JU**

Email: phs@lbhf.gov.uk Tel: 020 8753 1221

The designation does not require confirmation by the Secretary of State and falls within a general approval issued by the Secretary of State under Section 82 of the Act, namely the Housing Act 2004: Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of Other Residential Accommodation (England) General Approval 2010.

Any private landlord, property manager or tenant owning, managing or occupying a property within this area is advised to seek advice from the Council's Housing Standards Team by telephone on **020 8753 1221** by email to **phs@lbhf.gov.uk** or in writing to London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 9JU to determine whether their property is affected by the designation. Private landlords who own property in the area or any person that controls or manages property in the area will be required from **5 June 2017** to apply for a licence.

ENFORCEMENT

8. Upon the Designation coming into force on 5 June 2017 any person who operates a licensable property without a licence shall be guilty of an offence under Section 95(1) of the Act. A person who breaches a condition of a licence is liable to prosecution and upon summary conviction liable to an unlimited fine.

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Executive approval 12 December 2016

Annex A: Streets in Hammersmith & Fulham where Selective Licensing applies

Adie Road	Harwood Terrace	St John's Close
Aldensley Road	Hawksmoor Street	Stanwick Road
Armada Road	Haziitt Mews	Station Approach
Askew Crescent	Hilary Close	Sterne Street
Askew Road	Hofland Road	Studland Street
Aspenlea Road	Hopgood Street	Sullivan Road
Astrop Mews	Imperial Road	Talgarth Road
Astrop Terrace	Jerdan Place	Tamarisk Square
Augustine Road	Kenmont Gardens	Telephone Place
Barb Mews	Kilmarsh Road	Terrick Street
Basuto Road	King Street	Trevarion Road
Batoum Gardens	King's Road	Tyrawley Road
Batson Street	Lalor Street	Upper Mall
Beaconsfield Terrace Road	Lamington Street	Uxbridge Road
Beavor Lane	Lanfrey Place	Dalling Road
Bentworth Road	Langford Road	Daves Road
Beryl Road	Larnach Road	Devonport Road
Bishop's Avenue	Leamore Street	Down Place
Bloemfontein Road	Lettice Street	Dunraven Road
Bloemfontein Way	Leyfield Road	Eddiscombe Road
Bothwell Street	Lilac Street	Effie Place
Bramble Gardens	Lime Grove	Effie Road
Britannia Road	Loris Road	Elysium Place
Broomhouse Lane	Lower Mall	Epirus Mews
Bryony Road	Luxemburg Gardens	Erconwald Street
Bulwer Street	Macbeth Street	Fane Street
Byam Street	Macfarlane Road	Farm Lane
Cactus Walk	Mandela Close	Felden Street
Cambria Street	Palliser Road	Fielding Road
Cambridge Grove	Parsons Green	Filmer Road
Cassidy Road	Parsons Green Lane	Firth Gardens
Cathnor Road	Peterborough Mews	Maurice Street
Caverswall Street	Poplar Mews	Meldon Close
Caxton Road	Porten Road	Melina Road
Chancellors Road	Primula Street	Melrose Terrace
Charlow Close	Purcell Crescent	Micklethwaite Road
Clancarty Road	Ravenscourt Avenue	Milson Road
Colehill Lane	Ravenscourt Park	Molesford Road
Commonwealth Avenue	Ravenscourt Place	Moore Park Road
Coningham Mews	Raynham Road	New King's Road
Coulter Road	Redmore Road	Norbroke Street
Crabtree Lane	Reporton Road	Normand Road
Daffodil Street	Rickett Street	North End Crescent
Foxglove Street	Rigault Road	North End Road
Frithville Gardens	Rockley Road	Old Oak Road
Fulham Broadway	Rosebury Road	Oliver Close
Fulham High Street	Ryecroft Street	Ormiston Grove
Fulham Park Road	Scrubs Lane	Overstone Road
Fulham Road	Shepherd's Bush Place	Vereker Road
Galloway Road	Shepherd's Bush Road	Wallflower Street
Glenny Road	Sherbrooke Road	Waterford Road
Glenhorne Road	Shortlands	Watermeadow Lane
Goldhawk Mews Goldhawk Road	Snowbury Road	Wells Road
Goodwin Road	South Black Lion Lane	Wood Lane
Gorleston Street	Southcombe Street	Woodlawn Road
Grimston Road	Southerton Road	Woodstock Grove
Gwyn Close	Spring Vale Terrace	Yew Tree Road

PUBLIC NOTICE

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

DESIGNATION OF AN AREA FOR ADDITIONAL LICENSING OF HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 59 Housing Act 2004 (Notification Requirements Relating to Designation) that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham acting as local housing authority in exercise of its powers under Section 56 of the Housing Act 2004 ("the Act") has designated for additional licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation ("HMOs") the area described in paragraph 4.

CITATION, COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

1. This designation may be cited as the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Designation for an Area for Additional Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation 2016.
2. This designation is made on **13 December 2016** and shall come into force on **5 June 2017**.
3. This designation shall cease to have effect on **4 June 2022** or earlier if the Council revokes the scheme under section 60 of the Act.

AREA TO WHICH THE DESIGNATION APPLIES

4. The designation shall apply to the whole area of the district of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

APPLICATION OF THE DESIGNATION

5. This designation applies to all HMOs as defined by section 254 of the Housing Act 2004 that are occupied by 3 or more persons comprising 2 or more households, within the area described in paragraph 4 unless -
 - a) the building is of a description specified in Annex A (Buildings that are not HMOs for the purpose of the Act- other than Part 1);
 - b) the HMO is subject to an Interim or Final Management Order under Part 4 of the Act;
 - c) the HMO is subject to a temporary exemption under section 62 of the Act; or
 - d) the HMO is required to be licensed under section 55 (2) (a) of the Act (mandatory licensing).

EFFECT OF THE DESIGNATION

6. Subject to sub paragraphs 5(a) to (d) above, every HMO of the description specified in that paragraph in the area specified in paragraph 4 shall be required to be licensed under section 61 of the Act.

The designation was given general approval by the Executive Member for Housing under a delegated authority from the Executive of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Council. The designation falls within a description of designations in relation to which the Secretary of State has given a general approval under section 58 of the Housing Act 2004, namely The Housing Act 2004: Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of Other Residential Accommodation (England) General Approval 2015 which came into force on the 1st April 2015.

A person having control of or managing a prescribed HMO must apply to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham for a licence.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS/APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

7. Any landlord, managing agent or other person managing a HMO or any tenant within the Borough may inspect the designation, apply for a licence or seek further information or advice as to whether their property is affected by the designation from:

**Private Housing, Environmental Health, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street
Hammersmith, London W6 9JU**

Email: phs@lbhf.gov.uk Tel: 020 8753 1221

ENFORCEMENT

8. Upon the Designation coming into force on 5 June 2017 any person who fails to apply for a licence in the designated area shall be guilty of an offence under Section 72(1) of the Act, and shall be liable to prosecution and liable to an unlimited fine. In addition, they may be required to repay up to 12 months' rent if the tenant or the Council, in the case of housing benefit payments, apply to the Residential Property Tribunal under the provisions of section 73 and section 74 of the Housing Act 2004 for a rent repayment order.

Annex A: Buildings that are not HMOs for the purpose of the Act- other than Part 1 4

Buildings controlled or managed by public sector bodies etc 5

1. A building where the person managing or having control of it is 6
 - a) a local housing authority
 - (a) a non-profit registered provider of social housing
 - (b) a police and crime commissioner under section 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 or the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime under section 3 of the same Act.
 - (c) a fire and rescue authority under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
 - (d) a health service body within the meaning of section 9 of the National Health Service Act 2006
 - (e) a body which is registered as a social landlord under Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996.
 - (f) a profit-making registered provider of social housing where it is social housing within the meaning of Part 2 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 7

Buildings controlled or managed by a co-operative society 8

2. A building where -
 - (a) the person managing or having control of it is a co-operative society whose rules are such as to secure that each of the conditions set out below is met, and
 - (b) no person who occupies premises in the building does so by virtue of an assured tenancy, a secure tenancy or a protected tenancy 9
 The conditions are -
 - (a) that membership of the society is restricted to persons who are occupiers or prospective occupiers of buildings managed or controlled by the society,
 - (b) that all management decisions of the society are made by the members (or a specified quorum of members) at a general meeting which all members are entitled to, and invited to, attend,
 - (c) that each member has equal voting rights at such a meeting, and
 - (d) that, if a person occupies premises in the building and is not a member, that person is an occupier of the premises only as a result of sharing occupation of them with a member at the member's invitation.

For these purposes "co-operative society" means a body that-

- (a) is registered as a co-operative society under the 2014 Act or is a pre-commencement society (within the meaning of that Act) that meets the condition in section 2(2)(a)(i) of that Act, and is neither-
 - (i) a non-profit registered provider of social housing, nor
 - (ii) registered as a social landlord under Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996.
- 4 Schedule 14 of the Act and SI 2006/373
 - 5 Paragraph 2 of schedule 14.
 - 6 For the definition of "person managing" and "person having control" see section 263 of the Act.
 - 7 Paragraph 2A of Schedule 14.
 - 8 Paragraph 2B of Schedule 14.
 - 9 "assured tenancy" has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the Housing Act 1988; "protected tenancy" has the same meaning as in the Rent Act 1977; "secure tenancy" has the same meaning as in Part 4 of the Housing Act 1985.
 - 10 the 2014 Act" means the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

Buildings regulated by other enactments 11

3. A tenancy, licence or occupation of a house which is regulated under the following enactments:
 - (a) sections 67 to 87D of the Children Act 1989
 - (b) section 43 (4) of the Prison Act 1952
 - (c) section 34 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002
 - (d) The Secure Training Centre Rules 1998 12
 - (e) The Prison Rules 1999 13
 - (f) The Young Offenders Institute Rules 2000 14
 - (g) The Detention Centre Rules 2001 15
 - (h) The Criminal Justice and Court Service Act 2000 (Approved Premises) Regulations 2001 16
 - (i) The Care Homes Regulations 2001 17
 - (j) The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 18
 - (k) The Residential Family Centres Regulations 2002 19

Certain student lettings etc 20

4. A building -
 - (i) which is managed or controlled by a specified educational establishment or is of a specified description of such establishments and
 - (ii) the occupiers of the house or dwelling are undertaking a full time course of further or higher education at the specified establishment 21 and
 - (iii) the house or dwelling is being managed in conformity with an Approved Code of Practice for the management of exempted accommodation under section 233 of the Act. 22

Religious communities 23

5. A building which is occupied principally for the purpose of a religious community whose principal occupation is prayer, contemplation, education or the relief of suffering except if the building is a converted block of flats to which section 257 of the Act applies.

Buildings occupied by owners 24

6. A building which is only occupied by -
 - (i) one or more persons who hold the freehold or a leasehold interest granted for a term of more than 21 years of the whole, or any part of, the building
 - (ii) and/or any member of the household 25 of that person or persons but this exemption does not apply to a converted block of flats to which section 257 of the Act applies, except for ascertaining the status of any flat within the block.

Buildings occupied by resident landlord etc 26

7. A building which is occupied by a person or persons to whom paragraph 6 applies (subject to the proviso therein) and no more than two 27 other persons, not forming part of the owner's household.

Buildings occupied by two persons 28

8. Any building which is only occupied by two persons (forming two households)

Meaning of "building"

9. In this annex a "building" includes a part of the building 29
 - 11 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 14.
 - 12 SI1998/472 as amended by 2003/3005
 - 13 SI1999/728 as amended by SI 2000/1794, SI 2000/2641, SI 2001/1149, SI 2002/2116, SI 2002/3135, SI 2003/3301 and 2005/869
 - 14 SI2000/3371 as amended by SI 2002/2117, SI 2002/3135 and 2005/897
 - 15 SI 2001/238 NB Section 66(4) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 provides that the reference to a detention centre is to be construed as a reference to a removal centre as defined in Part VIII of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
 - 16 SI2001/850
 - 17 2001/3965 as amended by SI 2002/865, SI 2003/534, SI 2003/1590, SI 2003/1703, SI 2003/1845, s2004/664, SI 2004/696, 2004/1770, 2004/2071 and 2004/3168
 - 18 SI 2015/541
 - 19 sa 2002/3213 as amended by SI2004/664, 2004/865 and 2004/3168
 - 20 Paragraph 4 of Schedule 14
 - 21 Houses in Multiple Occupation (Specified Educational Establishments) (England) Regulations 2013/1601
 - 22 Housing (Codes of Management Practice) (Student Accommodation) (England) Order 2010/2615
 - 23 Paragraph 5 of Schedule 14
 - 24 Paragraph 6 of Schedule 14
 - 25 For the definition of "household" see section 258 (2) and paragraphs 3 and 4 of SI 373/2006

Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE A3220 GLA ROAD (ADDISON ROAD, ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) (TEMPORARY BANNED TURN) ORDER 2017

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
2. The purpose of the Order is to enable district meter repair works to take place on A3220 Warwick Gardens.
3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from turning right from Addison Road into Kensington High Street. The Order will be effective at certain times from 10:00 AM on the 13th January 2017 until 4:00 PM on the 15th January 2017 or when the works have been completed, whichever is sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
4. The prohibition will not apply in respect of:
 - (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
5. At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via Warwick Gardens, Cromwell Crescent, West Cromwell Road and Warwick Road to normal route of travel.

Dated this 20th day of December 2016

Mufu Durowoju

Network Impact Management Team - Manager,
 Road Space Management – Operations Transport for London
 Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Rangers still firing blanks



TWO 1-0 home defeats in four days and five consecutive losses in the Championship under new manager Ian Holloway leave Queens Park Rangers precariously perched just three points above the relegation zone going in to the hectic holiday period. "Things aren't going for us - this level is so tough, you get punished," said Holloway after Aston Villa had QPR for Sunday lunch in front of the television cameras following Derby County's midweek ram-raid in Shepherd's Bush. "Everything we try, everything we do - we're getting better. And then we get a big punch."

"Two games in a row now. Did we deserve that? No, I don't think we did."

You have to wonder what more Holloway can do to turn fortunes around in W12. In his six matches since returning to Loftus Road, he has constantly changed players, tweaked tactics and team formations but is still waiting to add to his homecoming victory against Norwich City.

He has started 16 different players and tried four others from the subs' bench.

Of the rest of the first-team squad regulars, only the injured Steven Caulker, Ariel Borysiuk, Nasser El Khayati and second-choice goalkeeper Matt Ingram have not yet featured under Ollie.

Holloway continues to remain publicly upbeat - "I couldn't have asked for much more from the lads, they gave me everything" - but, deep down, even this passionate believer must doubt whether the squad he inherited from Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink has much, if anything, more to offer.

Tim Sherwood, who has been linked with the manager's job the last few times it has been up for grabs in this corner of West London, suggested as much when he watched Sunday's 1-0 defeat by Villa, the club he failed to keep in the Premier League, from the luxury of the Sky pundit's chair.

But you don't need Sherwood or any coach with a

UEFA A-licence to pinpoint Rangers' biggest problem.

"There were plenty of positives. We pressed, we closed, we competed well but we need to start scoring," said Holloway after his side failed to locate the net for the third successive game and the fourth match in five.

Apart from four penalties - three converted by Tjarrohn Chery and one by Sebastian Polter - and a Chery free-kick that earned a home draw with Blackburn Rovers, Rangers have scored only 12 other goals from open play in 22 league matches.

They have managed a meagre four in their last nine outings - the lowest in the Championship bar second-bottom Wigan Athletic - and no-one has lost his creative zest more than Dutchman Chery.

"That's no goals in three games and that's got to change," Holloway said. "We've tried different formations and players. We've got to be stronger than we are."

And where would QPR be now if goalkeeper Alex Smithies, arguably the club's most prized playing asset, had not saved five of the last seven penalties faced?

Smithies kept his side in it on Sunday when he dived low to his left at The Loft end to push away Jonathan Kodjia's first-half spot-kick.

Early in the second half, the yellow-shirted No 1 got his sleeves dirty when at full stretch to deny Leandro Bacuna's low drive.

Holloway said: "The save from Alex should've given us the impetus. It was a brilliant save. We got a little bit deeper than I'd have liked. And in the box we didn't make it count."

Rangers failed to muster a single shot on target. In the end, even the usually dependable Smithies was culpable.

Although Kodjia struck his 75th-minute winner with some venom, no keeper should accept being beaten at his near post.

One positive was the return of Jamie Mackie, who came off the bench with 12 minutes or so left to play for his first appearance after eight months out with an ankle injury.



QPR keeper Alex Smithies saved his fifth penalty of the term, against Aston Villa, but couldn't prevent defeat

Picture: Rob Newell

"I thought Mackie came on and helped," said Holloway. "He made a difference with his positivity. He gave us a spark."

There are more cynical adult QPR fans who believe in Father Christmas than expect their team to get anything from the daunting visit to second-placed Brighton & Hove Albion next Tuesday (December 27, 12.30pm).

The high-flying Seagulls have the meanest defence in the second tier, conceding

just 14 goals in 22 games, and are bidding to extend their unbeaten run to 17 matches dating back to September 10.

Hoops bring down the curtain on a dismal year when they go to Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday, December 31 and begin 2017 with a couple of home games - against Ipswich Town (Monday, January 2) and in the FA Cup third round against Blackburn Rovers (January 7).

Tony McDonald

Oscar is leaving Chelsea for greater riches in China

Picture: Rob Newell



Willian: Why Oscar's off

WITH Oscar leaving Chelsea in the January transfer window to accept a lucrative £250,000-a-week offer to play in China, has the fact Blues are top of the league changed Antonio Conte's mind about what he would like to do next month in terms of bringing players in?

Real Madrid's Colombian striker James Rodriguez is a reported £60 million target to replace attacking Brazilian midfielder Oscar, who is expected to join Shanghai SIPG for £60 million in the new year.

Conte reverted to the company line: "We must be very pleased for the achievements we have made now," he said. "But also, I'm happy to play with these players and squad. It's logical that I have to speak with my club, to try to arrive at a solution to be in a good position at the end of the season."

"I don't know what will happen in January - in this case it's important to talk with my club. We have a fantastic relationship. I have my idea and I prefer to tell the club."

Oscar's Brazil team-mate Willian has revealed the reason why Oscar is exiting SW6 - and it's not a surprise.

Willian, 28, said after Saturday's win: "Oscar has already said goodbye. A good friend who goes away but we wish the best for him and his family as well. We know that the career of a player is short, it ends quickly, so when that opportunity (for financial security) comes, we have to think about our family."

The 25-year-old Oscar was signed by Chelsea from Brazil's Internacional in July 2012 for almost £20 million. He played 147 games for the West Londoners, scoring 38 goals.

● **SKIPPER** John Terry is mulling over the prospect of following Oscar to the Far East by ending his Chelsea career with a move to China. Terry, 36, signed as a trainee for Blues in August 1997 but is out of contract at the end of the season. The club have confirmed that no talks about an extension of his playing contract have taken place and will not until closer to the end of the season, if at all.

Meanwhile, Terry is free to talk to other clubs in January. If he decides to continue playing, Chinese Super League side Shanghai Shenhua, who are managed by ex-Blue Gustavo Poyet, will be his destination. Terry would earn close to £175,000 a week in China.

● **CHELSEA'S** under-23 development squad suffered their first defeat in eight games, losing 1-0 to Dinamo Zagreb on Friday - and now their progression in the Premier League International Cup is in doubt.

Blues remain third in Group D and must beat Swansea City at Aldershot on Thursday (7.05pm) - and hope Zagreb drop points against Dutch side Feyenoord - to have any chance of finishing top of the group, from which only the winners continue in the tournament. Filip Mihaljevic's header was the difference in Friday's match at Aldershot.

Our stocking fillers for stars present and past

BEFORE skiving off for a couple of weeks, our kind-hearted, tongue-in-cheek sports desk entered into the Christmas spirit - no, not the gin this time - by bestowing well-chosen gifts on a number of key local sporting figures, present and past.

STAN BOWLES - benefit match at Loftus Road

OUR most important gift. If not in time for Christmas, then QPR must soon answer the call from fans to award the club's favourite son a game that will help to fund his future care and ongoing battle with Alzheimer's.

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TO get him through the rest of this torturous season in one piece.

ANTONIO CONTE - trampoline

TO stop him wearing out the soles of his sleek Italian shoes each time he leaps up and down on the touchline.

SCOTT PARKER - anti-ageing pills

SO the durable midfielder can continue to serve Fulham from the bench when required.

JOSE MOURINHO - vanity mirror

SO he can keep a close eye on his favourite subject at all times.

TOM CURRAN and SAM CURRAN - England caps

NOTHING less than the young Surrey all-rounder brothers deserve in 2017.

OSCAR - back-pain remedy

WELL, carting £250,000 a week in a barrow around the streets of China will soon take its toll.

OLAMIDE SHODIPO - comfy cushion

TO ease the discomfort of all those

long days and nights wasted watching QPR from the subs' bench.

KARL HENRY - heavily-padded ear muffs

TO mute the senseless booing from his team's own so-called supporters.

JOEY BARTON - anger-management classes

A NO-NONSENSE weekly therapy course (comes highly recommended by Diego Costa) for the lovable Scouse rogue.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday December 20 2016

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427



Michy Batshuayi hopes to replace the suspended Diego Costa for Blues' Boxing Day clash with AFC Bournemouth

Picture: Rob Newell



Fulham's Norwegian Stefan Johansen netted his fourth goal in four games to help Whites secure a well-earned point against Derby County

Picture: Rob Newell

'Dominant' Fulham end Derby's run

Focus on Craven Cottage

PERHAPS it is a measure of Fulham's steady progress under Slavisa Jokanovic this season that he felt disappointed to only draw with the Championship's in-form team, who arrived at Craven Cottage on Saturday looking for their eighth straight win.

"I cannot be completely satisfied," said the head coach after seeing his side held 2-2 by Derby County, who had not conceded in their previous five matches.

Even though the draw leaves Fulham three points behind the Rams and four off the play-off places, Jokanovic lamented the fact his side have dropped 11 points from winning positions. Had they held on to all of those leads, Fulham would now be third in the table, behind Newcastle United and Brighton & Hove Albion, instead of edging up to ninth.

"My team offered many interesting things but we paid a very expensive price after some mistakes. They didn't put us under stress and scored two goals so easily," said the Serb.

"We played all the football, we were the dominant team, we created many chances and scored two goals but it wasn't enough to win this game."

"It's not the first time, and we need to think about this problem and try to improve ourselves, to be more solid and competitive."

Tom Ince put Derby ahead against the run of play in the 34th minute but any ideas the visitors had of gaining their first win at the Cottage since Brian Clough's side managed a 1-0 victory there in April 1969 were soon dashed.

Whites levelled in time added on at the end of the first half thanks to Floyd Ayite's fourth goal in three games, a simple tap-in following a neat cross from Ryan Fredericks. On the hour, Stefan Johansen gave Fulham a deserved lead with his fourth goal in four matches, although his shot was diverted into the corner of the net via the swinging boot of Derby defender Alex Pearce.

But with Rams heading for their first defeat since October 22, Pearce was left alone on the edge of the six-yard box to head the equaliser with 15 minutes left.

With Chris Martin ineligible against his parent club, Jokanovic opted to play minus an out-and-out striker. "We went with Floyd Ayite and Sone Aluko in this area," he said. "Floyd scored the goal, we created many, many chances and we offered the better football. My side must be clinical after their mistakes, and this was the situation that we found today in the game. But I can be satisfied that we played very good football."

Fulham, who have lost just twice in 11 games, were denied a deserved win when Lucas Piazon's late free-kick rattled the bar.

One major blow was the early departure of centre-back Tomas Kalas, who will at least miss the remainder of 2016 with a hamstring injury.

On the plus side, 19-year-old striker Stephen Humphrys, top scorer for the PL2 Development team, came on for his first-team debut with seven minutes left.

Whites face two successive away games over the holiday period, at Ipswich Town on Boxing Day (3pm) followed by Reading on December 30.

Tony McDonald

Michy ready to replace Costa

Blues are ripe for new record against Cherries



This week at
STAMFORD BRIDGE

By Paul Lagan

MICHY Batshuayi has the unenviable task of replacing goal-scoring machine Diego Costa against AFC Bournemouth on Boxing Day (3pm), when Blues go in search of a club-record 12th league win on the spin.

Talismanic hitman Costa picked up his fifth booking of the season in Saturday's 1-0 victory at Crystal Palace and misses one match – the Premier League game against the Cherries – through suspension.

But the Premier League's top marksman more than made amends by scoring his 13th league goal of the season in the win at Selhurst Park, where the visitors extended their lead at the top of the table. The gap became seven points after Manchester City beat Arsenal on Sunday to reclaim second spot, ahead of last night's Merseyside derby.

Belgian Batshuayi, 23, has waited for his chance to impress the Chelsea faithful since his £34 million summer move from French side Marseille.

He has had just four outings this term, scoring three goals – one in the 2-1 league win at Watford and a brace in the 3-2 home League Cup success against Bristol Rovers.

But Nemanja Matic believes that the striker has earned the right to replace Costa and, more importantly, he is ready to face the Cherries.

The Serbia midfielder, 28, said: "When you have Diego Costa in the team it is very hard to get a chance because he is playing so well and scoring goals. I'm sure that Michy is ready to take his opportunity because he is working hard every day. He is a good man. We won't

have Diego against Bournemouth but I hope Michy will be the man to decide the game for us."

Head coach Antonio Conte is meticulous in his preparations for matches and Costa had been playing with a fifth booking hanging over his head for weeks before finally succumbing to a yellow card for a needless first-half hack from behind on Palace's Joe Ledley.

So had the Chelsea boss put on training sessions with just Batshuayi up front and Costa sitting out, to pre-empt his inevitable suspension? Matic was not in the mood to give away any trade secrets.

"I can't say what we are doing in training," he said. "This is a question for the coach."

But he did say: "Everyone is prepared to play. But it is up to the coach to decide who will play on the day of the game. Everyone works hard like they're going to play, so this is normal in football."

Matic is confident Batshuayi has plenty to offer. He said: "He is a great striker, for sure, that is why Chelsea bought him. I'm sure if he gets a chance in the next game, he'll take it."

He also believes Batshuayi has learned from watching the Brazil-born Spain striker from the bench.

"Of course," he said. "It was the same with me seven years ago. It was very good for me to see how (Frank) Lampard played, how (Michael) Ballack and Michael Essien played. So it is good for him and a good experience for him to see Diego's movement. He will have learned from watching and playing with Diego (in training). He is going to be better because of this."

Conte, however, is insisting that Batshuayi still needs to adapt to the pace and strength of the Premier League, so there is a possibility that the Italian boss might opt for a false number nine, with Eden Hazard or Pedro getting the nod to replace Costa against Bournemouth.

Conte comes across as a calm but passionate man when talking about his

side – but you can sense, just beneath the surface, he wants to jump up and down and shout out his delight at the pole position in which he has placed his charges.

So what impresses him most about the team he took over in the summer, still reeling from the shambles of last season which saw Blues end their title defence in 10th place?

He said: "I think that now I see a strong mentality in my players. To go to Selhurst Park and play against a physical Crystal Palace and have the right behaviour and find the way to win, to fight in the same way as Crystal Palace, is not simple."

"We have a great team, great players, but you can see talented players who have great commitment. They are putting their talents into the team. That is fantastic for me but also for the fans to see that commitment, the will to fight for every ball."

Of the 11 consecutive league wins since defeat at Arsenal on September 24, nine have seen clean sheets.

"Nine clean sheets is fantastic, as it's not easy," Conte said. "It's difficult not to concede in this league – the opponent always has the possibility to score a goal, whether it's from a corner, throw-in or free-kick."

"But on Saturday I think we should have scored more than the single goal. So we have a bit to improve on."

Conte reveals that he was considering changing the team's formation to a back three long before the successive defeats to Arsenal and Liverpool in September but felt the players were not prepared for it.

"I think after the defeat against Liverpool and also Arsenal, I changed something, in me, in my players and in my club," he said.

"We understood the way to go, to have a different season compared to last season. It was different and for this reason we found the right solution to improve

the quality of the work, in all aspects, tactical and physical. I'm pleased for this."

"After those two bad games, we changed a lot – me, I changed it."

"I like to win but we deserved the two bad defeats. We tried to find the right solution on the pitch and off it. We explained to the players that we all deserved better than last season."

At what point did Conte decide to change from a back four?

"In my mind, before the game against Liverpool," he said. "I understood that our formation was not good to face Liverpool on the tactical aspect – and we paid the price. So against Arsenal, then I decided to change. We are playing with three central-defenders now. I don't think in the history of Chelsea we have done this."

"To change it totally is not easy. You must go slowly and put your ideas (across). In the games before Liverpool, there was the will to change but I waited for the right moment."

So why not change it after the Liverpool game, which they lost 2-1 at Stamford Bridge? Conte revealed a chink in his tactical armour by revealing he was hoping performances would improve rather than ensuring they would.

"We always hoped not to put a great change in the team. I had players that have only (ever) played with four at the back," he said.

Costa is not the only Chelsea regular ruled out of the Boxing Day game with Bournemouth. Midfield destroyer N'Golo Kante is also suspended for receiving his fifth yellow card, against Palace.

Will the banned pair be spending Christmas Day with their families rather than with the squad, as they won't be playing the following day?

"No, they won't," said Costa. "On the 25th we stay together – it's a normal situation before a game. We will have dinner in the hotel at 9pm and then sleep. Then we play the game and I hope we continue to win."